Women have been making history for years

National Women's History Month dates back to March 8, 1857, when women from New York City factories staged a protest over working conditions.

International Women's Day was first observed in 1909, but it wasn't until 1981 Congress established National Women's History Week to be commemorated the second week of March. In 1987, Congress expanded the week to a month. Every year since, Congress has passed a resolution for Women's History Month, and the President has issued a proclamation.

The U.S. Census reports there are 157.2 million females in the United States as of Oct. 1, 2010, compared to 153.2 million males.

At 85 and older, there were more than twice as many women as men.

The median annual earnings of women 15 or older who worked year-round, full time, in 2009, up 1.9 percent from $35,609 in 2008 (after adjusting for inflation) to $36,278. Women earned 77 cents for every $1 earned by men, according to 2009 stats provided by the Census.

More women 25 and older in 2009 had a bachelor's degree (29.9 million) compared to men (28.7 million).

Receipts for women-owned businesses in 2007 totaled $1.2 trillion. There were 141,893 women-owned businesses with receipts of $1 million or more.

More than 45 percent of women-owned businesses operated in health care and social assistance, and other services, such as personal services; professional, scientific, and technical

services; and repair and maintenance. Women owned 52 percent of all businesses operating in the health care and social assistance sector. Wholesale and retail trade accounted for 36 percent of women-owned business revenue.

California in 2007 had the most women-owned businesses at 1 million. Texas was second with 610,162.

Workshop about invasive weeds in El Dorado County

El Dorado County is having a workshop on Yellow Starthistle Control and Preventing the Spread of Invasive Weeds on March 11 from 1:30-3pm.

The meeting is in the Planning Commission Room – Building C, El Dorado County Administrative Offices, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville.

Registration for this workshop is recommended. Register online or contact Nancy Starr at (530) 621.5503 or njstarr@ucdavis.edu

Walk-in registration available at the event, if space allows.

Soroptimist singles out 4

Whittell students for honors

Publisher's note: ***On Feb. 23 Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe honored four students from Whittell High School as Young Women of Distinction. Bernadette Esquivel spoke about each woman. Here is what she had to say.***

By Bernadette Esquivel

STATELINE – I have had the pleasure of knowing **Karin Sharon** and her family for well over 12 years. Karin currently has a weighted gpa of 4.347 and she has taken all of the honors and AP classes we have to offer at Whittell High School, as well as some college classes.

She has maintained straight A's her whole high school career and has been on the honor roll all four years. She currently has 25 credits and will graduate with 27½ credits, when you only need 23 credits to graduate. She scored 1,820 on her SAT and a 26 on her ACT. She is a member of the National Honor Society and is the current president, she is also a member of the Key Club and she is the secretary. She was the class president her freshman year and a class representative her sophomore year.



Karin Sharon and Taylor Shepack

Karin began her community service career at age 13. Karin made

her Bat Mitzvah when she was 13 years old and hurricane Katrina had just taken place a few months prior. After watching and hearing about all of the devastation caused by Katrina, she decided to donate all of the gift money she had received to the victims of the hurricane. After that day she tried to devote her spare time to serve her community and give back as much as she could.

Some of Karin's other community service has included working the Soroptimist food booth at the Celebrity Golf Tournament for four years, she helps the Rotary Club every year with the annual St. Patrick's Day fundraiser, Kiwanis Crab Feed, and she helped organized Teens for Jeans, an organization that donates jeans to thousands of homeless people in America.

In 2007, Lake Tahoe experienced a devastating fire that destroyed more than 250 homes, the Angora Fire. Karin was there to help for five consecutive days around the clock making beds, serving food, and many other acts that helped the evacuees. Her list of community service goes on and on.

Karin is also very athletic. She has been on the volleyball team for the past four years helping them attain a state title her junior year. She has been on the basketball team for four years and made the Nevada All State Academic Team Sports Award for three years and probably the same for this year.

Last year she won first place in the Rotary Speech contest at the club level and came in 4th place at the district level.

In Karin's spare time she tutors students who plan to make their Bar and Bat Mitzvah's and she substitute teaches for the Temple Bat Yam's Hebrew School.

Karin plans a career in communications and plans to study at either UC Berkeley, New York University, or Harvard.

Taylor Shepack is a wonderful George Whittell High School student. While attending our school she has maintained a

weighted gpa of 3.848 while taking a number of honor and AP classes. She already has the required number of credits to graduate from high school, which is 23, but she will graduate with 26 credits.

Taylor is a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the honor roll all four years. Taylor has also been on the student council, being the class representative her freshman year, vice president her sophomore year, class president her junior year and she is currently the senior class representative.

Taylor's community service has included Key Club for four years, the Festival of Lights, and Adopt a Grandparent. Her most memorable one would be Adopt a Grandparent. It is run through Barton Memorial Hospital. Taylor enjoys going to the hospital and visiting with the elderly, listening and talking to them. She stated that a lot of these folks don't have frequent visitors and it makes her day when she is able to bring a smile to someone's face and to let them know people do care.

Taylor's athletic abilities include soccer, dance, and cross country running. She has also been involved in our band for four years, Black and White Choir for three years, Christian club for four years, she is on the SMILE committee (Students Making It A little Easier) and the SIC committee which is a Students Issues Committee.

In Taylor's spare time she dances. She does hip hop, jazz, ballet, couples and modern dance. She takes dance classes all week at Marcia Sarosik's Dance Studio. She also enjoys hanging out with family and friends. During the summer she enjoys hiking, biking, swimming and hanging out at the beach.

Taylor plans on attend the University of Nevada Las Vegas and majoring in performing arts and business.

I have known **Lea Manzano** for many years. While attending

George Whittell High School Lea has maintained a 3.7 gpa, she has been on the volleyball team for the past three years, as well as the basketball team for four years. Lea is currently a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the honor roll for the past three years.

Lea has been very instrumental with our school yearbook for the past three years. When I try to find her at lunch she can usually be found in the computer lab working on the yearbook or uploading pictures she took at a school event. Mr. Crammer, the yearbook advisor says, “Lea Manzano has been a key participant and editor for the yearbook the last three years. Her participation has led to the production of a memorable piece for the school. I couldn’t have done it without her.”

Lea began participating in community service when she was 13 years old. She started at Kahle Community Center working with the RAD camps. Lea has been involved in the South Lake Tahoe Women’s Center, volunteering many hours of community service. She is one of their shelter program volunteers working with abused women and their children. She has learned that being a woman is very valuable and women are powerful and they should take pride in being a woman.

Lea plans on attending UNLV, UNR or LTCC. Lea has chosen a career path of journalistic or portrait photography. Lea will be very successful and we are proud to have her as one of our students.

I have had the pleasure of knowing **Samantha Brumbach** for 13 years, since she was in kindergarten. Sammy currently has a weighted gpa of 4.33 and has taken numerous honor and AP classes while attending George Whittell High School. She will graduate with 26 credit, where as a typical senior has 23 credits. Sammy has been on the honor roll all four years with straight A’s.



Samantha Brumbach and Lea Manzano

She is a member of the National Honor Society, she is the executive vice president of the student body, she has sung for the Black and White Choir for the past three years, waking up extra early to get to school by 6:3am for zero period. She is a member of our school's Christian club for four years, and she has been a member of the Key Club for four years. The list goes on and on of her accomplishments.

Sammy's community service list is an extensive list as well. Some of her highlights have been going on a mission trip to Mexico her freshman year handing out food to people and painting a church, being a member of Key Club where she was vice president last year and this year she is the president. She is constantly thinking up new ideas for the group on community service projects. Her newest project is the Polar Bear Plunge on March 19 and all proceeds will go toward Special Olympics.

Sammy is not only a great student and a great asset to our school, but she is a wonderful athlete. She has been on the varsity soccer team for four years and when the team was disbanded her junior year that didn't stop her from playing soccer. She joined the boys' team and earned a starting position.

Ms. [Kathy] Bluethman, our athletic director said, "Sammy is an outstanding soccer player. She is so committed to her sports that when our girls' soccer team was withdrawn from our

school due to lack of amount of players, she was playing on the boys' team and was just as competitive as all the boys. She is always smiling and has a very positive attitude towards her academics, instructors, friends and teammates."

During her sophomore year Sammy played soccer for two weeks in Spain and France for a club team. She has also been a member of our girls' track team for the past three years and I am sure she will make the team this year too.

During her free time she skis, babysits for a number of our local families and she has helped at a soccer camp for children.

Sammy plans on studying at the Western Washington University and majoring in elementary education or in the health science field. Sammy looks at her life as a patchwork quilt. She states in her autobiography, "My fabric consist of loving parents, a home in the mountains, the care of three older sisters and a secure childhood. I grew up in a family where church and Sunday school were musts, and naming rocks, climbing trees and scraping knees were not only accepted, but expected. I grew up without any sort of technology such as Game Boys or even television, which forced my sisters and I to turn to each other and our imaginations for entertainment. I believe this lifestyle led me to be different from my peers and helped me form the pattern for my quilt."

Bernadette Esquivel is the registrar and scholarship coordinator at Whittell High School.

‘Soil whisperer’ to speak at farm conference

Soil guru Ron Godin, known as the “soil whisperer”, will speak at the Nevada Small Farm Conference on March 11-12 at the Fallon Convention Center.

Godin will discuss soil life, plant deficiencies, weed and disease problems, and how to amend soils for maximum health and crop yields. He is the Extension Agronomist for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture at Colorado State University and 2010 New Mexico Organic Farming Conference Educator of the year.

The small farm conference includes a diverse program of topics including beekeeping, small fruit production, marketing local beef, hoop houses, soil fertility and composting, egg handling, business planning, urban and school gardens and more.

For conference details, registration information and fees, contact Ann Louhela at (775) 351.2551.

‘Mount St. Elias’ to be shown at Northstar

Following its successful U.S. debut, “Mount St. Elias” returns for another special engagement. For one night only, moviegoers will get the chance to witness the harrowing documentary “Mount St. Elias” in theaters, and get a big screen glimpse into one of the greatest feats in mountaineering and skiing

history on March 3.

The film, which has garnered awards from film festivals around the globe, follows three adventurers as they brave temperatures of 40 degrees below zero, dense fog and falling rocks in hopes of descending the longest continuous ski run in the world – a 21-mile long descent from summit to sea level with massive vertical relief up to 60-degree steep. The previous attempt to ski this mind-blowing slope ended in tragedy when two of the most experienced skiers fell to their deaths in 2002. Director Gerald Salmina captures adventurer Axel Naglich, ski alpinist Peter Ressmann and free ski pro Jon Johnston as they risk everything to achieve what no man had done before.

“Mount St. Elias” will be aired at Northstar.

For more information, go online.

Lawyer: Garridos confess to Jaycee Dugard kidnapping

Updated: Feb. 28 8:35pm.

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

Phillip and Nancy Garrido have made a “full confession” to the 1991 kidnapping of 11-year-old Jaycee Lee Dugard in hopes of convincing prosecutors to allow Nancy Garrido to some day be released from prison, a defense attorney in the case revealed today.

Nancy Garrido’s court-appointed lawyer, Stephen Tapson, said this afternoon in Placerville that the Garridos had met

separately with El Dorado County sheriff's detectives in the last month and spelled out exactly how they abducted Dugard and held her captive for 18 years.



Phillip and Nancy Garrido

Nancy Garrido's confession took place with Dugard in the room, watching from across a table as the woman who snatched her off the street tearfully described what she had done, Tapson said.

The extraordinary revelation came after a brief and seemingly routine hearing in the 18-month-old case. Tapson emerged from the El Dorado County courthouse and told reporters gathered around him that Phillip Garrido had made the statement in a bid to win leniency for his wife. He said prosecutors have offered her a plea deal if she agrees to a sentence of 241 years, eight months to life, while Phillip Garrido has been offered a sentence of 440 years to life.

"So, she's obviously guilty of kidnapping and a bunch of other charges, but I think at least based on what happened after all the stuff started to become the bizarre family that she should at least be able to walk on the beach, probably with a walker at some point before she dies," Tapson said.

Read the whole story

Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit

Fourteenth annual Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit.

Hosted this year by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., at Homewood Mountain Resort on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe.

LTBMU forest supervisor named

Nancy Gibson is returning to the basin as forest supervisor for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. She was deputy forest supervisor several years ago.



Second in charge will be Jeff Marsolais.

The start date for both has not been released.

For the last three years, Gibson has been deputy forest supervisor on the Six Rivers National Forest. She has also worked in the Klamath and Mendocino national forests.

Marsolais has been acting forest supervisor for LTBMU since November. He came from the Inyo National Forest.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Caution urged when driving in the mountains during winter

To the community,

Lake Valley Fire Protection District would like to remind everyone that extra precautions need to be taken while driving during the winter. Along with potential hazardous road conditions, motorists can expect extreme delays due to snow conditions or accidents.

Lake Valley FPD personnel recommend following these tips to ensure a safe trip to your destination:

o Ensure that your vehicle is stocked with extra warm clothing, food, water, a shovel and other survival supplies in case you become stuck on a mountain road.



Lake Valley fire personnel at an accident on Highway 88 near Kirkwood this winter. Photo/Provided

o Make sure that your gas tank is full before leaving on any

trip.

o Always carry chains – it’s the law.

o Leave your headlights on while driving.

o Advise someone when you’re leaving and where you’re going.

o Drive carefully, even when the roads appear dry. Patches of ice tend to accumulate on curves and bridges when the rest of the roadway is clear.

o Clean the snow completely from your car. Any snow left on your roof can slide down unexpectedly and a thin glaze of ice can reflect in the sun, obstructing your view.

o Check road conditions before you leave. For California go online or call 800.427.7623. For Nevada, go online or call 877.687.6237.

o You must stop and put on chains when highway signs indicate chains are required. You can be cited by the California Highway Patrol and fined if you don’t. You will usually have about a mile between “Chains Required” signs and the checkpoint to install your chains.

o If you are driving slower than the traffic around you, use turnouts so that others may pass.

Leona Allen, LVFPD

Judge denies release of

Dugard transcript

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

The judge in the Jaycee Lee Dugard kidnap case today rejected efforts by the media to have court documents unsealed, including a grand jury transcript, in which Dugard described her 18 years of captivity.

El Dorado Superior Court Judge Douglas Phimister said he had reviewed more than two dozen of the sealed documents in the one and a half year old case but could not release them without jeopardizing Phillip and Nancy Garrido's right to a fair trial.

"With regard to the grand jury transcripts, and Phillip Garrido's mental health records, the court recognizes the right of access by both press and public but finds that the release of these records prior to jury selection will prejudice defendants' right to fair trials," the judge wrote in a ruling issued this morning.

The Bee and other media organizations have been seeking release of the records since October, and it remains unclear today whether the grand jury transcripts eventually may become public.

Read the whole story