

Reno tourism CEO quits abruptly

By Bill O'Driscoll, Reno Gazette-Journal

Ellen Oppenheim quit Monday after five years as CEO of the Reno Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority, saying she needs more time to care for her ill mother in Texas.

She leaves behind ongoing financial struggles at the tourism agency where in the past two years, the budget built on room tax revenues has been cut by 28 percent with 52 jobs slashed, and a shrunken international choral festival coming this spring could cost the agency nearly \$400,000.

The choral festival issue, Oppenheim said Monday, "had nothing to do" with her decision to resign the post she accepted in 2006 at an annual salary of \$225,000.

"I need to be available for my mother," she said. "It's important, my need to be able to get on a plane and tend to my mother's needs."

She said she will continue for the next six months in another capacity at the RSCVA because her contract, which was to be reviewed along with her job performance later this month by the agency's board, requires six months' notice of resignation.

Board chairman and Reno Councilman Dwight Dortch said the board will meet Thursday to discuss Oppenheim's transition and separation and appoint an interim CEO.

Last month, the 13-member board was informed that the American International Choral Festival had confirmed just 549 registrants out of an expected 3,000 from Europe, China and elsewhere for the May 4-8 event in Reno.

Read the whole story

Rotary crab feed

Each year the Rotary Club of Truckee selects a local nonprofit group to run the silent auction at the annual Crab and Pasta Feed which is slated for March 19. The High Fives Foundation is this year's group.

In addition to the traditional live auction, this year's event will include a performance by comedian Rick D'elia.

High Fives will be the recipient of all proceeds raised from the live auction at the crab feed. Previously, nonprofits that have participated in this event have earned from \$4,000 to \$16,000 for their cause.

The event is at the Truckee Community Recreation Center.

The bar will open at 5pm, followed by a dinner buffet from 6-7pm, comedian Rick D'elia at pm and the auction will follow at 8pm.

Tickets are available for \$40 for adults and \$20 for children 16 and under. Tickets may be purchased through any Rotarian or by calling Steve Randall at (530) 582.7720.

John Fremont's impact on Tahoe subject of Thursday lecture

Explore Tahoe Winter Speaker Series continues Feb. 10 at 6pm with Dave Borges, local Lake Tahoe history expert, sharing the story of John C. Fremont's sighting of Lake Tahoe and the 1856 presidential campaign highlighting free speech, free press, free Kansas and Fremont.

Explore Tahoe is located in the Heavenly Village next to North Face at 4114 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

A \$5 donation is requested.

For more information, call (530) 542.4637.

History talk at Explore Tahoe

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Pacific Crest Trail movie

The Pacific Crest Trail and Tahoe Rim Trail associations are showing the National Geographic “America’s Wild Spaces: The Pacific Crest Trail” on Feb. 25 at 8pm.

This hourlong film chronicles the peaks and valleys of the epic 2,650 mile long Pacific Crest Trail. This trail stretches from Mexico to Canada, cutting through seven national parks and 24 national forests.

Each year more than 300 backpackers attempt to complete the entirety of this grueling route, hiking through the states of California, Oregon, and Washington and experiencing elevations changes equal to that of 10 Mt. Everest.

The PCT and TRT run concurrently for approximately 50 miles along the West Shore of Lake Tahoe.

The movie will be shown at Lakeside Pizza in Tahoe City. It is free.

Blood drive in South Tahoe today

BloodSource is having a blood drive in South Lake Tahoe today. The drive is sponsored by the Barton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. All walk-ins are welcome and there are no appointments.

BloodSource provides blood to Barton Memorial Hospital.

The blood drive is from 11am to 6pm Feb. 7 at the El Dorado County Library at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.

To give blood, you must be in generally good health, free from cold symptoms for at least 48 hours, be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Prospective donors must bring a photo ID. The entire process takes about an hour.

For more information, contact Dan Kerr at (775) 781.5343. For donor eligibility questions, call BloodSource at 800.995.4420.

Ski report: Get out there now



Winds are expected to pick up this afternoon.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

History: A glimpse of life on

the Celio Ranch

Publisher's note: *This is reprinted from the October 1973 Lake Tahoe Historical Society newsletter.*

The following letter was read by Vera Broder Silberstein at the September meeting. This letter is a composite of three letters written to Vera from Anna Celio, daughter-in-law of Carlo Celio and wife of George Celio.

Thank you for picking me up and setting me down in a past I seldom recall and had almost forgotten. I was eighty two in July, the day man's foot prints were placed on the moon.



I was married June 2nd, 1909. My honeymoon trip was up that old, old trail awinding into the land of my dreams and over into Hope Valley where the Celio's then had their dairy. The cattle were driven making eight stops before we reached our destination. The lower ranch we rented from George Hanlan at Deer Creek in the Sacramento Valley. The first days drive was to Latrobe, not a long drive but so much had to be done – cows milked, calves fed, breakfast gotten, bed clothes packed, and numerous other articles put n the wagon. One of the articles was this little steam engine used to run the butter churn. This was a busy little engine. It ran the saw that sawed the wood, that made the steam that ran the separator, and that heated the water that washed the vat, separator, buckets, churn, and butter press, scrubbed the dairy floor, also heated the water that washed the clothes, and the bath water. So you it was responsible for cleanliness.

I can't tell you when the churn or the engine were purchased except that they were there when I came, and they had been dairying there five or six years before I came.

From Latrobe our drive would be to Celio's ranch at Nashville.

Next day to the Six Mile House, then Riverton, Kyburz, Strawberry, Meyers and then our destination, Hope Valley. I thought it almost hopeless when I looked around a bare cabin, a little old-fashioned wood stove in the center of a bare room – two large wooden tables, a long bench and a couple of stools, and a couple of small rooms. Off the end of this room were a couple of wooden bunks with straw ticks. Wood rats had had access to the cabin during the winter and on top of all that there were six hungry men to feed for dinner. I did have help and we did manage to heat water, wash the cooking utensils and get a meal. And no matter what I thought of the beds before or afterwards they felt heavenly that night.

Yes, I remember your grandfather well. They used to come down from his cabin and stop in for a chat. Also your Dad came for awhile during the summer. Neighbors were few in Hope Valley and the days long and lonesome although it was rather pretty back where we were and always green.

We had five milkers and milked 125 cows all by hand – we never used milking machines. We kegged all the butter in brine and hauled it out in the Fall.

In 1917 we moved to Lake Valley and began building the dairy there. Charles Celio insisted the house would be two stories, the roof a certain pitch, the floor space a certain dimension, but I could plan the rooms anyway I wished.

I had so many plans, flowers, a small pond with water lilies, a clump of delphinium, and of course Quaking Aspen. I can still see it all quite vividly.

Then my husband, George Celio died in 1919. I left the dairy in 1921. The last year I was there the house grew rather sinister. The youngsters and I were all alone. In the late afternoon when shadows lengthened there was a feeling of something creeping up. In the middle darkness an owl's hoot and coyotes howls. The terrible bigness of the night just seemed

more than I could take. Besides my middle girl wasn't well and needed a doctors care. I lost her when she was eleven.

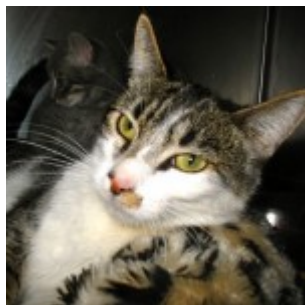
Change, change, I guess that is what life is all about. Nothing stays the same but I hate to see that beautiful country change. That is why I never wanted to go back. I want to keep the picture unspoiled in my mind.

For years now I have lived in Avenal. I used to like to garden but arthritis has taken its tole and I have had to give it up. My mind and memory are quite good and I have fought to keep them that way. I have enjoyed your letters. They have made me look back on my younger days – riding horseback over those mountains, fishing those mountain streams, – oh my that couldn't have been me! Why I can hardly move from my comfortable rocker. I am just a contented 83 year old woman whose younger life was so much different. I do knot know that I have helped you any, but I have gotten some pleasure just reminissing. And now good night.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Sweet Jane is about 2 years old. She came to the shelter with her kittens in October. She was a wonderful mother and fostered motherless kittens along with her own.

Sweet Jane gets along with other cats and dogs. She has been here a long time and really deserves a home of her own.



Sweet Jane 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.

– Susan Baumflek

Nevada contending with brain drain

By J. Patrick Coolican, Las Vegas Sun

Eric Glyman is exactly the type of young person Nevada needs to reinvent itself.

The 20-year-old graduate of Green Valley High School was a valedictorian, science olympiad and member of the speech and debate and track and field teams.

Now a junior at Harvard, he's majoring in Chinese and economics.

And he's probably not coming back. Opportunities are much better elsewhere.

Nevada, like many states and countries, has always suffered from a flight of human capital, or “brain drain,” as it’s often called. Many of our best and brightest take a pass on UNR and UNLV, and once they matriculate at elite universities elsewhere, they wind up in regions that are financial and technological centers and offer more varied cultural and recreational lives.

This brain drain problem was mitigated during the boom, as tens of thousands of college-degreed Americans came to Nevada for opportunity. The valley was flush with architects, construction management experts, marketers, attorneys, accountants and other professionals. In fact, today there are roughly 191,000 working-age adults in the valley with bachelor’s degrees who weren’t born in Nevada, according to an analysis of census data by Alan Berube of the Brookings Institution.

Although we enjoyed a migration surge of the educated, we also had a massive influx of less educated service and construction workers, and we were left with a workforce that was less educated than most large urban areas – 21 percent of Clark County residents had bachelor’s degrees as of 2009, compared with the national average of 27 percent, according to census data compiled by the Chronicle of Higher Education. By contrast, 28 percent of residents of Maricopa County, where Phoenix sits, have degrees; in Salt Lake County, it’s 29 percent.

Read the whole story