Tahoe drummer creates book for youngsters

By Susan Skorupa, Reno Gazette-Journal

A six-armed goddess and a tiger with wings are out to save the world.

With the help of the rhythm generated by the goddess Durga on her many drums and with the speed and fluidity of the tiger Cyrus' flying abilities, Mother Earth has a chance for peace, harmony, survival and safety in "Adventures of Durga: Messenger of the Drum" (Drumchik Productions, $16 paperback).



Brosco
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Lake Tahoe drummer and writer Liz Broscoe wrote the book for elementary school-age children as a way to open up her love of West African, Afro-Cuban and other types of drumming and rhythm, and to address childhood issues such as self-esteem and cultural and community issues.

Broscoe got the idea for the book five or six years ago, but it was only two years ago that she knuckled down to get it written, writing every day for a year and working with an editor.

"I was going to do a show called 'Drumchiks' and have other female drummers come in and tell a story," Broscoe said.

Read the whole story

Olympian joins Santa in Squaw

Two-time Olympic medalist Shannon Bahrke, who was raised in Tahoe City and mastered moguls in her years on the Squaw Valley Freestyle Team, will join Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Olympic Valley to launch the Magical Memories holiday celebration Nov. 26 from 5-8pm.

This event also includes The Gingerbread Village Unveiling and Grand Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Meyers Landfill takes twice as long to cap, closure remains

By Kathryn Reed

It will never look like a pristine forest, but one day the old Meyers Landfill site on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe could be a place worth visiting.

For now, though, it’s completely off-limits.

With nearly a third more debris found at the site than anticipated, the closure to the area remains in effect until at least through 2011. This is because the construction associated with getting the cap on the old dump is not done. Part of the area will remain closed for three years. At that time the U.S. Forest Service, the landowner, will decide what

to do for the long term.



Intact garbage found this summer at the old Meyers Landfill. Photos/Gail Bakker

This information will given out to a sparsely attended Nov. 18 meeting at the Forest Service headquarters in South Lake Tahoe. That same day an extension to the closure was signed by acting Forest Supervisor Eli Ilano.

The heavy equipment at the site has been removed, with the remaining pieces to be out by the end of the weekend.

About 107,000 cubic yards of waste was consolidated into one area.

“We found a lot of bottles, pieces of metal, clothes, pieces of carpet, chunks of concrete,” Gail Bakker, USFS engineer and project leader, told *Lake Tahoe News* after the meeting.

Even readable newspaper remnants were found. And the area off Pioneer Trail near Elks Club Road has not been a dump since 1971. (It started as a landfill in 1947.)

This proves things don’t easily decompose, even with decades of rain and snow to help with the process.

Debris covering the South Tahoe Public Utility District line

was removed so it can be accessed in the future. It won't be covered by the cap. Soil samples were taken in that area – about 12 feet below the manhole. They turned up negative.

For now, a layer of soil covers the site. A French drain was also installed to collect subsurface drainage from neighboring slopes.

Next summer the black impermeable plastic cap will be installed.

"One reason we chose a thicker cap is because we knew people would be back there," Dennis Geiser, engineer with the USFS regional office in Vallejo, said.

A drainage layer will be included, more soil and then native plant seedlings.

"We cannot allow deep-rooted plants because the liner is 3 feet from the surface," Bakker said. If trees or shrubs sprout, they will be yanked out.

The entire disturbed area is more than 20 acres. However, the liner will cover 7 acres, with what's called the plateau area encompassing another 4 acres.

There will always be restrictions on the use of site – no buildings, no wells.

What concerns Forest Service officials with snow on the ground is snowmobilers using the area during the temporary closure. A chain link fence is up around the inner most sensitive area, while the orange construction fencing is around the perimeter. More signs will go up soon.

But as the snow mounts that orange fence can disappear. Then, there are the people who don't care and ride on through. Damaging the stormwater protection systems is the major concern, along with riders injuring themselves.

Law enforcement as well as forest protection officers will be in the area to educate people and cite violators when necessary.

Once the cap is in place, groundwater testing will be ongoing. The cap is designed to prevent further leaching of contaminants into the groundwater. Vinyl chloride is the main contaminant people are worried about. It is a breakdown component of solvents that had been dumped at the waste site.

If the cap is working, then the contaminated groundwater (there are no drinking wells are in the area) will dissipate. If it doesn’t work, this will be detected via the monitoring wells showing continued or increased levels of contaminants.

One plume is moving toward Saxon Creek, another toward Pioneer Trail.

With this being deemed a CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act) site per the Environmental Protection Agency, specific remediation measures had to be used. It took this long to begin construction of a cap because it took nearly 20 years and millions of dollars worth of litigation to reach a settlement earlier this year.

The original estimate on the design of the cap was $7 million, which includes $5 million for construction. With it taking another building season, that bill will come in higher. El Dorado County, which was the main defendant in the case because it operated the landfill, must also cover 100 years of operations and maintenance at the site.

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Tahoe Adventure Film Festival coming to MontBleu

The annual Tahoe Adventure Film Festival offers gnarly footage from BASE jumping, skiing, downhill mountain biking, rock climbing, kayaking, surfing, deep water soloing. All risk – no gear, no ropes, climbing rocks over water describes the fast paced, high energy that premieres Dec. 11 at MontBleu in Stateline.

Doors open at 6:30pm, show starts at 7:30pm.

Click here for more info.

El Dorado County has hotline for storm

El Dorado County has a Storm Closure Information hotline that will list all county facilities that have closed due to severe storm conditions. That number is (530) 573.3050.

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2 pounds meth seized in Stateline, man in jail

On Nov. 18, a multi-agency drug trafficking investigation culminated in the arrest of one suspect and the seizure of

approximately 2 pounds of meth in Stateline.

The suspect, 45-year-old Francisco Sandoval-Estrada of Modesto, was arrested after delivering approximately 1 pound of suspected methamphetamine to investigators during an undercover narcotic sales transaction.

An additional pound of suspected methamphetamine was recovered by investigators in the vehicle that Sandoval-Estrada arrived in. Estimated street value of the seized methamphetamine is approximately $145,000.

Investigators from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Street Enforcement Team, Western El Dorado Narcotic Enforcement Team and the All Threats/All Crimes Unit from Reno conducted the investigation.

Sandoval-Estrada was booked into the Douglas County Jail on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for sale. His bail was set at $105,000.

Sandoval-Estrada is also being held on an immigration hold through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Sex offender parking near Heavenly's main lodge

To the community,

There has been a van parked on Saddle Road between the California Main Lodge and Wildwood Avenue in a deserted construction site. The California license plate is 2F28754.

The South Lake Tahoe Police Department has notified Heavenly that the owner is a registered sex offender who preys on young women.

The Police Department has demanded that the individual move from the area. The van was removed from the site Thursday night.

With this individual’s close proximity to the Main Lodge, please alert your staff to remain extra vigilant while walking to and from the parking lot after work and in the early morning hours.

Karen S. Foster, Heavenly Mountain Resort Health & Safety manager

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Squaw ready to open Saturday

Squaw Valley is slated to open for skiing and riding on Nov. 20 with fresh snow from a system approaching Lake Tahoe.

The storm is predicted to deliver up to 6 feet to the Sierra at the higher elevations. Lake Tahoe has not seen a November snowstorm this large in the past six years.

Slopes will be accessed by Exhibition chairlift and Pony Tow from 9am to 4pm this weekend. Guests can also take a scenic ride up the Cable Car.

Early-season discounted lift tickets for opening weekend are $59 for adults, youth and seniors $42, super seniors $27 and kids 12 and under $12.

Truckee Donner Land Trust fundraiser

River Ranch Restaurant will donate 30 percent of diners' total food bill to the Truckee Donner Land Trust on Dec. 9 from 6-9pm.

Make reservations (530.583.4264) at least a day in advance, and be sure to tell the person you are dining for the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

The River Ranch is on Highway 89 at Alpine Meadows Road.

Threat of abductions leads to sheriff's warning

In light of recent attempted child abduction incidents that have occurred in surrounding Northern Nevada and California communities, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office is providing the following information.

In the last two months, there have been several incidents of suspicious activity related to possible attempted abductions in Reno, Sparks, Carson City and South Lake Tahoe.

The majority of incidents have occurred while children/teens were walking to or from school. Suspects have engaged children/teens in conversation, and attempted to get them to leave with them on foot or in a vehicle. No children have gone

with the subjects.

Suspect descriptions have ranged from young male Caucasians, to middle-aged Hispanic males, and in one incident, a middle aged Caucasian female.

Vehicle descriptions have included a large white van, a dark-colored SUV, a white Chevy pickup with black rims, and a Lexus.

Reno police have arrested three suspects and Sparks police have arrested one suspect whom they believe responsible for some of the incidents. Their investigations are still ongoing.

There have been no related incidents reported in Douglas County; however in an effort to educate parents and children on actions to increase personal safety, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office offers the following tips.

Safety information for children/teens:

Always let parents know where you are going, who you will be with and what time you will arrive home.

Always get permission from a parent before leaving home, even if going to a nearby location.

Try to avoid walking alone – use the "buddy system".

Never hitchhike.

Avoid short cuts through alleys, greenbelts, deserted parks or buildings. Never play in these isolated areas.

Always walk near lights and stay in public and open areas at night.

Always walk on the sidewalk or as far away from the roadway as possible. Walk facing toward traffic so you can see vehicles approaching.

If someone pulls up near you in a car, and asks you to come over so they can talk to you, do not approach the car. Tell them to go talk to an adult. Remember, adults should never ask kids for help, they should always ask another adult.

Trust your instincts – recognize and report suspicious behavior. Go somewhere safe if you feel fearful of someone.

If you see someone unusual hanging around a schoolyard, park, bus stop, or location where children or teens hang out, tell your parents.

Remember descriptions of suspicious vehicles or persons. If you can read the license plate, write it down. Write it in the dirt or snow if no pen or paper is available.

Safety information for adults/parents:

Never leave children under 6 years old unattended.

Avoid clothing or toys with child's name on it (suspects can use this as an intro when approaching a child by calling him/her by their name).

Identify safe houses in your neighborhood that your child can go to if frightened or chased.

Never leave a child alone in a public place.

Always accompany your child into public restrooms.

Always go with your child to supervise door-to-door activities such as fundraising or Halloween

Make it a family rule that your child must let you know where they are at all times.

Make sure your children know their last name, phone number, and address.

Make sure your child knows how do dial 911.

Let your child know it is all right to say “no” to an adult if asked to do something they are not comfortable doing.

Teach children that adults should never need or ask for help from children for any reason (e.g. ask for directions, asking for help find an animal, etc).

Explain that if an adult or child ever asks them to “keep a secret” it is OK for them to discuss it with a parent/trusted adult.

Actions if approached/abducted:

Parents should teach the following actions to their children in case they are approached or abducted by a stranger.

If a car pulls up beside a child, teach the child to move away from the car. Tell children to run in the opposite direction the car is facing.

If taken by a stranger, to yell specific phrases such as, “Help, I don’t know this person!”, “I need your help”, or “I’m being kidnapped!” They can also yell “fire” which usually gets everyone’s attention quickly, and then follow up with one of the previous phrases.

If grabbed by a stranger, drop their weight by quickly squatting, twist their body, stretch out their body, kick/punch/scratch/bite at the abductor, and scream “Help! I need your help, I’m being kidnapped!”

If grabbed in a store, yell for a cashier or other adult, and to shatter merchandise and knock down displays. Tell child to try to grab onto the nearest person.

If forced into a car or building, scream and shatter objects and windows.

If abducted in a parking lot, pound on cars to set off car alarms, and go under a parked car if possible.

If abducted into a car, quickly jump into backseat and go out a back door.

If locked in a trunk, push out taillights and let wires dangle out.

If locked in an apartment or house, try all doors and windows for escape. Create an emergency situation (flood bathroom, break windows, set off alarms).

Never stop fighting back and always keep looking for an escape route.