Aspen stands along Upper Truckee River to be restored

Crews from the U.S. Forest Service and California Tahoe Conservancy will work this summer and next restoring about 60 acres of aspen groves near the Upper Truckee River and around the Angora Fire area.

The projects are made possible by $285,000 in funding from the South Tahoe Public Utility District, as part of a plan developed in collaboration with the League to Save Lake Tahoe to mitigate recycled water export line construction impacts on Luther Pass.

Aspen grove restoration is critical in areas disturbed by fire or construction because the groves provide habitat to multiple wildlife species. They are also a key element of a healthy, fire-resistant forest.

Review: Doobie Brothers, Chicago warm cool Tahoe night

By Carla Roccapriore, Reno Gazette-Journal

STATELINE – The Doobie Brothers, followed by Chicago, took the stage late Saturday in front of fans at the Harvey's Outdoor Arena and concluded the 3-hour performance singing six songs together.

The groups performed in front of at least a 90-percent capacity crowd, who showed up despite the chilling temperatures. The concert was one of several being held as

part of the Lake Tahoe Summer Concert Series.

The Doobie Brothers opened with “Take Me in Your Arms” and “Jesus is Just Alright.”

The group then took a pause from playing its hits of the past and discussed its future. It played three songs from the upcoming “Doobie Brothers” studio album due out later this year: “Nobody,” “World Gone Crazy” and “The Chateau,” which seemed to excite the crowd as much as the nostalgic tunes.

Read the whole story

Maritime museum needs volunteers

Do you have a few hours a week or even a few day to spare during the summer months? Do you enjoy meeting new people and sharing information about Tahoe? Do children bring a smile to your face?

If you answered yes to at least one of the questions above, mark your calendar for July 2 at 5pm for volunteer and docent training at the Tahoe Maritime Museum in Homewood.

If you are unable to attend the training, but would still like to be involved,contact Smitty or Heather to find out ways you can help out by emailing info@TahoeMaritime.org.

Discount tickets available to Tahoe’s celeb golf tourney

Raley’s, Bel-Air and Nob Hill Foods supermarkets are selling discount ticket for the American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, July 13-18.

Tickets are on sale at 128 locations throughout Northern California and Nevada through July 17. Stores will offer tickets to the celebrity golf tournament for $22, or $18 with a grocery purchase of $50 or more. These one-day tickets are for Friday, Saturday or Sunday of the tournament. Ticket purchases are limited to four per person. For a full list of stores selling discounted tickets, click here.

Tickets are also sold online here and at the gate.

Thunderbird Lodge documentary airs in Reno



The Nevada Historical Society will take viewers behind the scenes at the stunning, historic Lake Tahoe retreat built by the legendary George Whittell when they present the documentary “Thunderbird Lodge” June 23 at noon as part of the High Noon series.

The Thunderbird Lodge is one of the last and best examples of a great residential estate on Lake Tahoe from the period in which prominent San Francisco society built homes on the lake.

Following the video is a presentation and question and answer

period hosted by Bill Watson, executive director of the Thunderbird Lodge.

The Nevada Historical Society is at 1650 North Virginia St., Reno on the UNR Campus.

For for more information, call (775) 688.1190 or go to www.NevadaCulture.org.

Taste of Tahoe taps into Mott Canyon

Mott Canyon on Lower Kingsbury Grade is in the spotlight this week for Taste of Tahoe.

Now through June 26 the Stateline restaurant will give a portion of its proceeds to Taste of Tahoe. This event is raising money for Relay for Life, which is a nationwide fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society.

The South Shore Relay is in early August at Kahle Community Park in Stateline.

Convoluted process for 2 SLT

city manager candidates

By Kathryn Reed

It could be a matter of days before the next city manager of South Lake Tahoe is named. The City Council is interviewing two candidates today and a quasi-public panel will interview the men Monday.

Councilman Bill Crawford is declining to be part of today's process.

"I'm not participating in the selection because I don't feel I have anything to contribute because I'm leaving office at the end of November," Crawford told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He is in favor of the council that will be seated at the end of the year hiring the next city manager and having an interim after Dave Jinkens' last day on Aug. 7. At least one new member will be on the council – the person taking Crawford's seat. Mayor Kathay Lovell is seeking a third term and Councilman Jerry Birdwell is on the fence regarding re-election.

Crawford does not intend to vote for any city manager his colleagues deem suitable.

Who are the candidates?

The candidates before the council today are Mike Segrest and Tony O'Rourke.

Although the council has been presented with Segrest being the current town manager of Moraga, a small town in the East Bay

of San Francisco, he has given the town his resignation letter. A May 28 article in the *Contra Costa Times* says Segrest is resigning after being on the job since February 2009 because of his wife's health issues.

Segrest was manager of the town of Snowmass Village, Colo., for five years before moving to California. Last month he was one of three finalists for the town manager job in Telluride, but didn't make the final cut.

O'Rourke has been the executive director of Beaver Creek Resort Company in Colorado since 1996. This is not the ski resort owned by Vail Resorts.

According to the company's website, it is "a very special hybrid, combining a homeowners' association, a resort association, with some municipal services added. The Resort Company, a Colorado nonprofit corporation incorporated on April 30, 1979, was designed to help Beaver Creek become and remain a unique resort community."

O'Rourke was in city government mostly in Florida and Texas before taking the job in the Rockies.

The council had wanted to interview four candidates, but two backed out.

Lovell said it's possible the council could choose other candidates to interview if Segrest and O'Rourke don't pass muster with them or Monday's interviewers.

Some recognizable names applied for the position but were not chosen to be interviewed – the current redevelopment director, a former assistant city manager now with Reno, a former housing employee, and the manager of Heidi's restaurant.

Where is the public input?

On Monday, each candidate will have a 90-minute interview before a panel made up of representatives from the five city

commissions (Planning, Parks and Recreation, Airport, Latino Affairs, Sustainability), both chambers of commerce, a disabled advocate and senior citizen representative.

No one from tourism, the city's major sector, is involved; the minimum wage worker isn't represented; the largest landowner – the U.S. Forest Service wasn't invited; the largest employer – Barton Healthcare, is not involved. John Q. Public is also not part of the process.

People have told *Lake Tahoe News* it seems like special interest groups are making the decision about the city manager job, which is the highest position in South Lake Tahoe city government.

When the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency hired now former Executive Director John Singlaub, a broader public panel was involved, which included this reporter. When now former Executive Director Patrick Kahler was hired on at the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, the board interviewed the finalists in public.

Birdwell had proposed having a social at his bed and breakfast for the public to mingle with the candidates, but Lovell didn't like the idea. She also didn't like the idea of having them stay at the Black Bear Inn, fearing the perception it would create. However, the council as a whole didn't have a problem with now City Attorney Patrick Enright staying there when he interviewed. Both city manager candidates are at the Black Bear – staying for free. The city was not going to pay for their overnight accommodations no matter where they slept.

The public may attend the sessions that start at 8:30am Monday at Lake Tahoe Airport, but they will not be able to ask questions. Each panelist may ask two questions and the same questions must be asked of both candidates.

"Each panel will have a scorecard and we will be provided the total score from each group," Lovell said of the process.

It is up to each councilmember as to what weight he or she gives that scorecard when it comes to making a hiring decision. The council will discuss the matter in closed session on Tuesday at the regular council meeting, but Lovell said it's likely a final decision will require a special meeting.

The council would like to have someone on board before Jinkens leaves.

Lovell said it would be the incoming city manager who hires the next police chief even though Jinkens has started the process and applications are due by the end of the month.

The process

It has been the city attorney, Enright, who doesn't have human resources experience, who the council asked to spearhead the hiring process once consultant Bob Murray culled together the list of names.

The council's lack of confidence in the HR manager is why Enright was brought in.

Enright and Murray have provided the council with possible questions to ask the candidates.

But what the council wants in the next city manager has not been discussed. Nor has it been a collaborative process with staff.

It didn't have to be this way. An entity that wants to discuss the vision for its next leader is Lake Tahoe Community College. That board has agreed to work with faculty and classified staff to outline what it is everyone wants in the next president.

That approach has not been taken by this City Council.

Instead, at the last-minute the council decided to have the

candidates interview with eight members of the labor groups and the eight department heads – separately. This means a time consuming, inefficient four sets of interviews for the candidates.

Gene Palazzo is one of the directors on the panel even though he applied for the job of city manager.

There has been no coordinated effort to ensure the candidates won't keep being asked the same questions. Nor is there a format to share the answers with each panel.

Culture Heritage Summit in Genoa

The Carson Valley Arts Council & Nevada Arts Council's Circuit Rider Program will present the Cultural Heritage Summit 2 at Genoa Lakes Golf Club Supper Club on June 23 from 8:30am-2pm.

The registration fee is $30 preregistration, $40 at the door and covers workshop resources and lunch.

Circuit Rider and nationally known facilitator, Kendall Hardin, will facilitate the event.

Carson Valley's ongoing summit explores ways to capture "cultural caravans" for those who know you can't live life through a flat-screen television.

Leaders of arts, cultural, historical, natural history and environmental organizations; community leaders with chambers of commerce and redevelopment agencies; government officials; leaders in the hospitality/tourism industry; artists and engaged citizen are likely to benefit from the summit.

This intensive and entertaining community workshop will cover such topics as: How audience and consumer behavior has radically shifted; Who the experience seekers are and what they want; 10 tips for enticing experience seekers; How to turn your cultural and tourism products into experience; How to maximize your location; How to create successful “bundles” and “hooks” for your community; How to turn your competitors into allies; The critical importance of the “wow factor” and “remarkable” experiences; What are Carson Valley’s best hooks and bundles; How to create experiential marketing and bring your brand to life; and best practices and models for bundling from other hot spots.

For registration information, visit www.cvartscouncil.com or call (775) 781.0150, (775) 782.8207.

Feds close Nevada Security Bank of Reno

By Jessica Holzer, Dow Jones

WASHINGTON – Nevada Security Bank of Reno was closed (Friday) by state regulators, bringing the number of failed U.S. banks in 2010 to 83.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was appointed receiver. Umpqua Bank of Roseburg, Ore. entered into an agreement with the FDIC to assume all of Nevada Security’s deposits and essentially all of the failed bank’s assets.

Read the whole story

Dugard’s biological dad tells his side

By Alan Duke, CNN

LOS ANGELES – Kenneth Slayton wants to get a message to Jaycee Dugard, the California woman kidnapped as a child and held captive for 18 years.

Slayton would like to get together with Dugard and her two children on Father’s Day, but he said he is being blocked from communicating with the 29-year-old he believes is his daughter.



Kenneth Slayton

When Dugard went missing in 1991, FBI agents investigating the 11-year-old’s disappearance knocked on Slayton’s door because the truck driver had been identified as her biological father.

Slayton said he was shocked by the FBI visit because until then he didn’t know about Jaycee was his daughter.

Read the whole story