Douglas County library events

“Make a Splash – Read!” is the theme of the Summer Reading Program for kids at the Douglas County Public Library.

Registration starts June 7. The program continues through Aug. 7.

Children will explore water through stories, songs, crafts, and other activities about oceans, rivers, lakes and the creatures that live there. The library has scheduled a variety of programs to keep kids reading all summer. The children’s program is open for ages infant to 12.

At the C.V.I.C. Hall in Minden on June 15 at 3-8:30pm is the Books are Fun Book Fair. Purchases help support the library. The Fratello Marionettes perform “The Frog Prince” at 6:30pm; the Library Foundation Ice Cream Social and Raffle runs from 7-8:30pm.

The Douglas County Public Library is located at 1625 Library Lane in Minden; and at 233 Warrior Way in Zephyr Cove.

For more information, call (775) 782.9841 or visit douglas.lib.nv.us.

South Tahoe teen survives plowing into power pole

By Kathryn Reed

By the looks of the 4Runner it is surprising the driver was released hours after striking a telephone pole on Pioneer

Trail and being hauled to Barton Memorial Hospital.

The name of the male teen driver was not being released Tuesday night by South Lake Tahoe police officers. The vehicle had 2010 painted on the driver's side and Tahoe ICE in the back window.



A single-vehicle accident Tuseday evening leaves one injured and power lines strewn across Pioneer Trail. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Pioneer Trail east of Ski Run Boulevard was closed off just past 5pm Tuesday after the single car accident knocked out the power pole that broke at the bottom and sent wires across all lanes of traffic.

Officers after 10pm said the driver, who was the lone person in the vehicle, was released from the hospital. An officer said the teen driver, a student at South Tahoe High School, might have fallen asleep. Alcohol and drugs are not believed to be a factor in the accident.

Marty Scheuerman, division chief with South Lake Tahoe Fire

Department, said witnesses told officials they saw the driver heading toward Meyers, swerve into the other lane, hit the pole, and spin around. The vehicle landed off the edge of the road facing the direction it had come from.

No brake marks are visible.

Joel Kuntz, a journeyman lineman with NV Energy, said six customers were without power after the 5:10pm accident.

He and his colleagues worked to clear the area of debris and danger. For the time being power is being routed on a temporary secondary line. On Saturday, most likely, NV crews will be back – which means traffic controls – while a new pole is erected and the lines are installed to a permanent position.

Officials terminate contract with South Shore bus provider



By Kathryn Reed

MV Transportation is being told to hand over the keys to the South Shore transit operation and to cease operating BlueGo as of noon June 20.

A letter from South Tahoe Areas Transit Authority attorney Michael McLaughlin dated May 28 to MV Transportation says

STATA is terminating the three-year contract that was signed June 5, 2009.

The Fairfield-based company took over on an emergency basis when ATM abruptly left. Then it came on board to operate the bus and trolley system with the long-term contract.

Financial issues have plagued the relationship from the get-go. STATA took an $800,000 loan from MV last year that it was supposed to start to pay back July 1. The loan is for five years.

Nikki Frenney of MV says STATA owes $1.2 million dating to August for services rendered.

Stacy Dingman, board member and spokeswoman for STATA, says STATA this year has written checks to MV for $1.2 million, including a $500,000 payment in April.

Monthly costs fluctuate based on hours of service combined with fixed costs. Dingman did not have those figures.

The attorney's letter says, "Please be assured that STATA has every intention of working with MV toward a mutually-agreeable repayment plan to satisfy its obligations to MV; however, STATA's present financial condition provides no opportunity for it to obtain a letter of credit or any other security for the debt, as requested in MV's May 21, 2010, letter."

The exact amount owed is in dispute and is off by about a quarter million dollars.

MV last month had threatened to suspend service if the financial situation did not improve, but it did not expect the contract to be terminated.

"Like any business we cannot continue to operate and not be paid. We are paying drivers and servicing the buses," Frenney said. "They are doing business without having the ability to pay for the service."

STATA's stance is there is no way bus service on the South Shore is going to be interrupted.

To keep things rolling, TRC Consultants, which was brought in early this year, will operate the bus system when MV's obligations cease. TRC and LSC, another transportation consultant, are working to get the system solvent, Dingman said.

"They have already found opportunities that will ensure improvements," Dingman said of TRC. She said TRC has had complete access to the books so officials know what they are getting into.

As for being able to pay TRC, Dingman said the money would come from grants that had not been previously secured, cost-savings TRC has proposed and "doing things smarter all the way around."

Cash flow has long been a problem for STATA. The agency gets grants, funding from California, Nevada, the federal government, and money from the member partners. Dingman said bankruptcy is not an option that is being considered.

If the wheels on the buses don't keep going round and round, it's possible STATA would have to pay back some of the money it has received.

Federal Transit Administration officials at the San Francisco office did not return a call.

Dingman said the contract with TRC had not been signed as of Tuesday afternoon. It will be for no more than one year, as is allowed in an emergency situation.

Changes to routes will need to go through public hearings. In South Lake Tahoe the City Council must sign off on them. Dingman has said those changes are coming. It's a matter of when, not if.

Caregiver support meeting

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 July 8 from 5:30-7:30pm at 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.

Barton thankful for successful health day

To the community,

Thank you seems so small for the tremendous effort you all contributed to the second annual “Latino Family Health Day, Everyone is Invited” event, which took place at Bijou School on May 26. Barton Health extends a huge thank you to everyone who made this family health day an enormous success – we simply couldn’t have done it without you.

We at Barton appreciate your time, talents and commitment to

helping keep every one in our community healthy, one person at a time. Our family health day offered nearly 30 free medical screenings and health related information booths to approximately 475 locals of all nationalities.

Your support and partnership in this vital health screening day is extremely important to our community and we offer our sincerest gratitude. Our appreciation goes to:

Optimist Club of South Lake Tahoe

Soroptimist International of the Tahoe Sierra

Barton Foundation

Tahoe Family Resource Center

Latino Affairs Commission

LT Unified School District

El Dorado County Public Health Department

El Dorado Public Library

South Lake Tahoe Women’s Center

Dr. Jenifer Norris of Alpine Family Practice

Dairy Council of California

Safeway, South Lake Tahoe

Choices for Children

Embassy Suites & Echo Restaurant

South Tahoe Public Utility District

Bayer & CCS Medical

Kahle Community Center

Worth & Naccarato Chiropractic

Tahoe Youth & Family Services

Planned Parenthood

City of South Lake Tahoe

CalStar

HOPE & AVID volunteers

Tahoe Daily Tribune

Barton Health departments that participated include Public Relations, Community Clinic, Barton Family Medicine, Laboratory, Home Health & Hospice, Occupational Medicine, Engineering & Housekeeping, Auxiliary and Barton Mountain Café.

We truly hope that you had as much fun as we did in providing these vital services to our locals.

Sincerely,

Denise Sloan Smart, communications specialist for Barton Health

---

Festival of Tree and Lights planning meeting

Do you want to have some fun and help raise money for the Barton Community Clinic?

Would you like to help make this year’s family friendly

Festival of Tree and Lights even bigger and better?

Are you curious about the festival and just want to know what all the hub bub is about?

Then join us for an information session June 7 from 5-6:30pm in the Aspen Room at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe.

Kelly Ridge to receive national honor



The Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition of Washington will be recognizing South Lake Tahoe's Kelly Ridge housing development at a June 2 banquet.

Kelly Ridge, named after TACCD's David Kelly, has been selected by the panel of judges to receive an Honorable Mention certificate in the Senior Housing category for this year's Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards competition.

The 16th annual Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards has six categories: Metropolitan Housing; Rural Housing; Senior Housing; Special Needs Housing; Green Housing; and Public Housing Revitalization.

For more information about Kelly Ridge, click here.

Produce fresh from the farm at weekly markets

The summer farmers' market in South Lake Tahoe opened today. Vendors will be at the American Legion parking lot until 1pm.

Asparagus, peaches and greens were selling fast this morning.



Javier Toscano sells produce at the June 1 farmers' market in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The market will be open every Tuesday from 8am-1pm in South Lake Tahoe.

The one in Meyers opens June 6; and will go every Sunday. Tahoe City's market is Thursdays.

STPUD not done fighting South Tahoe's redevelopment plan

By Kathryn Reed

Officials from South Tahoe Public Utility District and South Lake Tahoe are expected to get together early this month to hash out lingering redevelopment issues.

Even though the city approved another redevelopment area last month, STPUD and El Dorado County are not walking away from the issue.

"We could talk about our plan of attack for the next couple of months in closed session," Richard Solbrig, STPUD general manager told the board at its last meeting.

The district has 90 days from May 18, when the city passed the plan, to file a lawsuit to stop it from going forward. (The county has the same deadline.) The board has not decided if that is the course it will take. First, staff from both sides will meet.

The water-sewer district is concerned it will lose a substantial sum of money as property tax dollars go to the city's Redevelopment Agency instead of to STPUD.

"I hate to use pubic funds to sue another public entity unless it's for the public's gain," said Dale Rise, STPUD board president.

Solbrig, Rise and board member Chris Cefalu were at the

meeting when the council on a split vote went forward with the plan that encompasses 3,100 acres from the airport to the Y to Herbert Street. Solbrig voiced his concerns at the meeting.

Beermaker’s dinner at Dragonfly in Truckee



Dragonfly Restaurant in Truckee is again teaming up with Reno’s Buckbean Brewery for another beermaker’s dinner on June 11.

Brewmaster Dan Kahn says pairing food and beer is a little different than pairing food and wine.

“With wine you generally look for flavor contrasts, while with beer you generally pair similar flavors, although contrast can also work very well in some cases,” Kahn explains.

The repast begins at 6pm with hot and spicy shrimp potstickers paired with Buckbean’s Roler Bock and continues with a grilled Kobe beef slider with Great Hill Farms blue cheese, caramelized onion and IPA infused ketchup paired with Buckbean’s Adaven IPA. The menu’s centerpiece is the Red Ale Chinese five spice braised Muscovy duck with ginger mash potatoes, which is served with Buckbean’s Tule Duck. The dinner is concluded with a Noddy glazed chocolate cake with caramel Chantilly cream paired with Buckbean’s Black Noddy.

Beermaker dinner participants will also have a chance to meet the brewmaster, learn about the brewing processes, taste the

malts, smell the hops and more.

The four-course dinner, which includes beer pairings, is priced at $42 per person. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended – (530) 587.0557.

The Beer Maker’s Lodging Package offers guests who wish to spend the night in Truckee a 20 percent discount on any Truckee Hotel room for the evening of June 11 which can be booked by calling (530) 587.4444.

Dragonfly is located upstairs at 10118 Donner Pass Road, in the heart of downtown Truckee.