

TY&FS receives 2 grants

After a yearlong grant process, Tahoe Youth & Family Services was awarded \$50,000 each year for the next three years from the California Wellness Foundation. The \$150,000 in grant funding provides core operating support to sustain the Drop In Center and services for homeless and runaway youth. More specifically, these grant funds will enhance counseling and case management services for homeless and runaway youth in and around the South Lake Tahoe area.

The Community Foundation of Western Nevada recently awarded a \$5,000 grant to Tahoe Youth & Family Services through their Community Partnership Grant Program. This funding will be used to help sustain operations in light of the difficult national and local economies.

Tahoe City resort goes green

Lake Tahoe's Granlibakken Resort has been named a Green Business in Placer County by Keep the Sierra Green, a bi-state partnership designed to recognize area organizations that practice sustainable ecological and economic practices.

Granlibakken is one of the first to receive this recognition from the newly formed organization. Companies in Truckee, Incline Village, Crystal Bay, Nevada County and Placer County are eligible.

Keep Sierra Green awards points based on certain criteria in areas including solid waste reduction, pollution prevention, energy conservation, water conservation, employee awareness, unique sustainable practices and plans for the future to

maintain recognition. Granlibakken achieved 111 points to wildly exceed the 74 required for certification.

Some of Granlibakken's efforts include:

- * Fuels reduction on more than 50 acres of the 74 acre property;
- * Natural firebreaks created between buildings and high-risk forest areas;
- * Best Management Practices certified across entire property;
- * Replaced polystyrene/Styrofoam cups, takeout containers and plastic cutlery with biodegradable items;
- * Installation of occupancy sensors for lighting in remote and low-traffic areas;
- * "Good Earthkeeping" option for guests to reuse their towels instead of laundering daily.
- * Training for new and current employees on green practices around the resort.

Granlibakken's focus on restoring and maintaining the natural forest habitat surrounding the secluded resort paid off during the 2007 Washoe Fire. The fire reached Granlibakken's firebreaks, causing the fire to drop to the ground, stopping the spread onto the property, and throughout the area saving homes, land and wildlife.

For information on Granlibakken, go to www.granlibakken.com; for information on the Keep the Sierra Green program, visit www.KeeptheSierraGreen.org.

Kindertown march of support

Supporters of Kindertown will meet Oct. 3 at 11am at the Miller's Outpost parking lot in South Lake Tahoe. The peaceful march will end at Kindertown Preschool with a barbecue. Supporters are protesting the state wanting to close down the facility in mid-October.

Details about the case are at:
<https://www.laketahoenews.net/2009/09/state-forcing-kindertown-to-close/>.

Salmon arrive in time for annual festival

The salmon are here – and just in time for the 20th annual Kokanee Salmon Festival at Taylor Creek Visitor Center on Highway 89 on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe.

The Oct. 3-4 event is from 10am-4pm.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, the salmon started their migration up Taylor Creek on Sept. 13.

For information, call (530) 543.2674.

Ensuring school year is productive

By Julie Franklin



The beginning of the school year is the best time for teens and parents. There is an abundance of hope: hope for good grades, good attendance, a decrease in behavior problems, you name it. Teens want to make themselves and their parents proud, or at least steer clear of consequences that bad grades and behavior bring.

Here are some tips to help you and your teen get off to a strong start this school year.

• Meet their teachers: Attend Back to School Night or make an effort on the first few days of school to meet all of their teachers. Get the email addresses for each teacher in case you need to use it. There is no need to email the teacher all the time unless you have a specific concern or your teen has a behavior you are trying to correct, like not turning in homework, etc. Don't hesitate to call or email concerns or questions. Read over the course syllabus or any pertinent literature sent home. Be aware of big due dates, such as research papers or reports.

• A place to study: Whether it's a the kitchen table or a desk in their room, students of all ages need some place to study. Although many students can study with music playing, they usually need a place absent of interruptions.

• Show an interest: Although they may not seem like it,

teens usually feel pleased and supported when their parents show an interest in their academic life. Find out what types of books they like, what topics they choose for research, reports or freestyle pieces. Many parents have no problem showing interest in the extracurricular areas of their teen such as music, art, or sports. Show that same support for math, English and science. Ask to see their homework, offer to help proofread their papers, help quiz them for an upcoming test or quiz.

â€¢ Be aware of progress reports: In most schools there are some sort of reports during the months that lead up to the final semester grades in January. Visit your school's website or call ahead of time. Know when to expect these reports in your email or mail. Teens have been known to intercept the mail if an unfavorable grade is inside. Progress reports will help you realize if your teen is struggling academically. There are also a special type of progress reports that are available in some schools, weekly progress reports. This is usually arranged through the counselors office. The student carries the progress around to each teacher once a week, say on Fridays. The teacher gives a comment that includes present grade and behavior. The progress report in this case will be handed back to the parent. Consequences and rewards can be tied to this. It is also a good device if you are trying to see the increase of a specific grade.

â€¢ Scheduling a parent teacher conference: If your student is showing signs of struggling academically, grades of C- or lower, call the school and schedule a meeting with that specific teacher. If your teen is struggling across the board or if you feel that behaviorally they need adjustment or an informal intervention from all their teachers, schedule a parent teacher conference with all their teachers at one time. It is usually beneficial for all parties to hear everyone's view. Encourage the student themselves and both parents to

attend if possible.

â€¢ Getting a tutor: If your teen is really struggling, and you feel as if the subject matter is beyond your understanding, arrange for tutoring. Contact the teacher first as many times students may come in at lunch or after school for extra help from the teacher. Peer tutors may also be found (often for a fee) through the teacher or by contacting the counseling office.

â€¢ Rewarding grades/behavior: Students of all ages should be given some sort of positive reinforcement for desired results. Your teen doesn't have to bring home A's & B's for a reward of some sort. Maybe you set goals for high grades, maybe you set goals for improved grades or behavior. Suggested rewards may be the obvious like clothes, money or a gift. Other ideas include increased amount cell phone incentives, time with friends or a night out to dinner. You may choose to set up a reward system linked to progress reports every few months or something more frequent.

â€¢ Appropriate consequences: In the same way that desired results should be rewarded, poor academic effort and behavior should involve a consequence if there is a desire to decrease that behavior or outcome. If your student pulls up way short of the goal you both have set, some privileges could be revoked or decreased. Consequences are much more effective if they are natural and related to either the negative behavior or the outcome desired â€” so for example if you get a bad grade, the cell phone or computer or TV time might be limited because you need more time to study. In addition, the best way I have found as a teacher and a parent, is to decide ahead of time what the various consequences will be for a specific situation. This way both parties are making decisions and coming to an understanding with a clear, calm head. An example might be, â€œIf you are getting a D or below in any subject, your cell phone is taken away until that grade is brought up.â€ Other privileges which can be manipulated include:

phone time, TV time, video games, TV in room, the car, time with friends/boy or girlfriend, computer time, shopping, allowance, etc.

â€¢ More tips and helpful articles: There are many wonderful and helpful websites out there with great tips. One website that has a ton of articles that pertain to Back to School and school success, etc. is About.com. The exact address is: http://parentingteens.about.com/od/education/a/back_to_school.htm. They have tons of articles on: Getting Organized, How to avoid Morning Mania, Tips to get your teen to do their homework, How to Attend a Back to School Night and much more! Check it out!

Julie Franklin taught high school for 15 years at Douglas High School in Minden. She now works for Tahoe Youth & Family Services.

Fall Food Fest

The Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation is sponsoring a Food Fest on Oct. 16th from 6:30-10pm at Harvey^{â€™s} Convention Center, Stateline.

The fundraiser pays for enrichment programs in all schools in Lake Tahoe Unified School District.

This community activity will feature food by local restaurants, beer and wine tasting, a silent auction, and music. Since school funding has been dramatically cut for the coming school year, the enrichment programs provided by LTEF offer many students opportunities to participate in art, music, science, math, marine biology, health education activities that would not otherwise be available.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door, and are available at all elementary schools, the LTUSD office and Fox Gas.

Chat with Molly Blann

Meet Lake Tahoe Community College board of trustee candidate Molly Blann at the Black Bear Inn on Ski Run Boulevard, Oct. 9 from 9:30-11am.

Women Entrepreneurs meeting

The next meeting of Women Entrepreneurs will be at Passaretti's Restaurant in South Lake Tahoe on Oct. 27 from 11:30am-1pm.

More details when available.

For information, contact JoAnn Conner at (530) 544.7412.

Boys & Girls Club Golf Tournament

The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe Golf Tournament is set for

Oct. 12.

Thereâ€™s plenty of enticing reasons to make the BGCLTâ€™s golf tournament a tradition, besides the reduced player fee (down \$55 from last year) and overall community goodwill. Howâ€™s a one-week trip to Hawaii sound? Or \$10,000 for a hole-in-one? Or a 42 inch Sony flat screen TV? Thereâ€™s more:

- * Rounds of golf at Tahoe/Reno areaâ€™s top courses
- * A ski trip to Steamboat Springs
- * Sports memorabilia
- * Golf equipment
- * Wines and spirits
- * Stays at top area hotels
- * Divine 9 Ticket To Paradise (one round of golf at each of the 9 Carson City/Valley courses)
- * Certificates for area restaurants, attractions, activities and merchandise

Along with all the great prizes, raffles and auction items is a round of golf at Edgewood Tahoe, the areaâ€™s most spectacular course and site of the annual American Century Championship, the celebrity event on NBC Sports. And players have their choice of format, either Best Ball or Scramble, with prizes awarded in both categories. In addition to \$10,000 for an ace on all par 3s, thereâ€™s also closest-to-the-pin prizes on each par 3.

All golfers have a shot at the Grand Prize Raffle, a one week stay at a Marriott Vacation Club of their choice, including Maui, Kauai, St. Thomas, valued at \$3,500-\$4,000; courtesy of Christopher Klesh, a vacation lifestyle consultant who helps travelersâ€™ dreams come true for 10 cents on the dollar.

Destination possibilities can be viewed at www.LifetimeLeisure.net.

The best part is that every dime of every \$195 entry fee goes directly to the Boys & Girls Club to continue its work with local kids since Edgewood Tahoe has generously donated the course.

Golfers also receive a gourmet breakfast buffet and a half dozen Titleist ProV1 balls as tee prizes, a box lunch, beverages on the course and an awards reception with hors d'œuvres.

Playing spots, hole sponsorships, and hole-in-one promotions are all available by contacting the Boys & Girls Club at (530) 542-0838 or email: khouser@bgclt.org. For a registration form: www.bgclt.org.

Reel Rock Film Tour

Reel Rock Film Tour will premiere at LTCC Duke Theatre on Oct. 2 at 6:30pm.

www.reelrockfilmtour.com