PR firm launches scholarship at UNR

The Abbi Agency, a Reno-based public relations and digital engagement firm, has established a 10-year scholarship fund for Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Center for Advanced Media Studies Strategic Communications students at UNR.

This is the first time in the school's history, part-time students are eligible to apply.

Abbi Whitaker graduated from the Reynolds School of Journalism.

"Most of our team members attended the Reynolds School," Whitaker said in a statement. "I think it's important that all the marketing, advertising and PR agencies in town support students. They are our future employees."

The first Strategic Communications Scholarship will be awarded in the fall 2014.

Last Chair Festival returning to Squaw

A celebration of music, culture and community, the Last Chair Festival welcomes an eclectic mix of world-renowned music acts including The Flaming Lips, Jurassic 5, Matisyahu, Fitz & the Tantrums, Mayer Hawthorne and more.

The second annual event at Squaw Valley is Jan. 9-11.

Last Chair's 2014 lineup includes:

• The Flaming Lips

• Matisyahu

• Jurassic 5

• Mayer Hawthorne

• Fitz & the Tantrums

• Random Rab

• Chali 2na (and the House of Vibe)

• Ben Rector

• Tennis

• West Water Outlaws.

This year's Last Chair Festival features a slate of cultural seminars and after-party events.

For more info, go online.

Age doesn't have to be the reason not to ski

By AP

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo. — If you've walked into a ski lodge the past few years, likely as not you've seen tables filled with gray-haired skiers wearing sweaters so old they're back in style.

That’s because the number of skiers on the far side of 50 – some on the very far side – has been creeping up each year, according to the National Ski Areas Association.

Credit advances in artificial hips and knees that make it possible for skiers to continue enjoying the sport; shaped skis, along with better snowmaking and grooming that make skiing easier; and high-speed lifts and luxury touches like ski valets that make it more pleasant.

“There are no excuses,” said 93-year-old Klaus Obermeyer, the Aspen-based skiwear designer. Despite breaking his leg in a wipeout two years ago, Obermeyer still skis each day.

Sure, younger people still make up the majority on the slopes – the average skier is 38.5 years old – but, “The person who skis the most in a given year is 65 and older,” said Michael Berry, president of the NSAA, based in suburban Denver.

Bragging rights go to those age 68 and older, who averaged 9.5 days skiing last season. Boomers – those age 49 to 67 this year – also skied more than the national average of five times per year, according to an NSAA survey released in August.

“You don’t want to sit in your rocking chair and look at the view,” said 70-year-old Billy Kidd, who won a silver in the slalom at the 1964 Olympics. “You want to remember your days of youth and you love that feeling of adrenaline and dealing with the variables of skiing.”

Clearly, others old enough to remember Kidd in his heyday feel the same way. Those ages 45-54 made up 20 percent of skiers last winter, up from 14 percent in the 1997-98 season; the 55-64 age group made up 12 percent, up from nearly 5 percent, and those 65 and older rose to 5.5 percent from 2.5 percent, according to the NSAA study.

Kidd, who skis nearly daily in his role as an ambassador for the Steamboat Ski Resort, said one thing that has changed as

he’s gotten older is his gear.

Indeed, Kidd is a walking billboard for the latest innovations. His skis and poles are lightweight carbon fiber. His Osbe helmet does away with goggles and replaces them with a built-in visor that provides better peripheral vision. He traded in traditional ski boots for soft Apex boots, which provide support through an external frame. (For putting on traditional ski boots, many older skiers swear by the Ski and Snowboard Boot Horn.)

“At 20 years old I didn’t care about comfort,” Kidd said. “I still have to have control, but the top priority for me is comfort.”

Certainly, there are challenges as skiers age, not the least of which is finding friends who are also still skiing.

Clubs like the 70+ Ski Club, based in North Kingstown, R.I., with more than 4,000 members, and the Over the Hill Gang International based in Colorado Springs with 3,000 members, offer camaraderie, discounted tickets and ski trips near and far.

Even those who retire to Florida still pursue their passion. The Florida Ski Council has 17 clubs in the state and at least one trip going every week of the ski season. The largest club, the Tampa Bay Snow Skiers and Boarders, takes about 1,000 people a year skiing, said Clair Quenzler, the council president.

These dedicated watchers of the discounts for skiers agree that the perks seniors used to get from ski resorts have been reduced as their numbers increase.

Several resorts have raised the eligibility age for discounted lift tickets, or they’ve limited deals to weekdays.

“To be fair to the ski areas, it’s a business for them as

well," said Doug Lofland, 56, one of the owners of the Over The Hill Gang International.

So what suggestions do experts have to help the rest of us ski into our Golden Years?:

- Stay in shape.
- Try to choose slopes with less traffic so you can safely ski a little slower.
- Think about afternoon sun and shadows. A west-facing slope will have better definition.
- Be cognizant of higher altitude and hydration.
- Walking in ski boots can be more challenging than skiing, so companies have developed lightweight shoes, like Pakems, that you can carry with during the day for a quick change.
- Consider taking a gondola or chairlift down the mountain if weather sets in or you're tired.
- Consciously chose your danger level. "The repercussions of making a mistake are too great," Kidd said.

And finally, enjoy, like the 89-year-old who sent the 70+ Ski Club a photo of herself skiing with her great grandchildren.

"There are not many sports four generations can do together like that," said club president 42-year-old Richard Lambert.

Phone bills for S. Tahoe residents may go up

Anyone in South Lake Tahoe who gets a phone bill – for a land line or cell – is likely to see a slight increase on Jan. 1.

The City Council on Dec. 10 will have a public hearing to

discuss raising the emergency communication system access fee. The current fee is $1.61 month. The proposal is to have it be $2.25 on Jan. 1, 2014, and then $2.65 on Jan. 1, 2015.

This is the fee associated with calling 911.

City Manager Nancy Kerry did not respond to questions about the increase.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• South Lake Tahoe has removed the parking kiosks on Venice Drive so snowplows won't destroy them. The city says it always anticipated doing this, saying the couple hours to do so is cheaper than replacing them. When the snow flies it will be evaluated how snow removal operations around other kiosks work. On Venice there is a rolling curb instead of right-angle curb.

• Sierra Nevada College's visiting professor and writer in residence, Patricia Smith, won the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. The prize, given by the Academy of American Poets to Smith for her latest book of poetry, "Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah," is one of the most prestigious poetry prizes in the United States.

• Tahoe Donner's Light up the Night event is Nov. 30 from 5-8 p.m. at the Lodge Restaurant & Pub.

• Sierra Sotheby's is collecting food for Lake Tahoe's Project MANA through Dec. 2. Donations may be dropped off at the

Incline Village, Squaw Valley and Zephyr Cove offices.

• Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for this week.

Recreation topic of 2 South Shore meetings

South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County and Douglas County are hosting two community workshops to discuss the role outdoor recreation plays in enhancing community livability and tourism on the South Shore.

This is an opportunity for residents to share their insights about parks, recreation, trails, events and programs in an attempt to improve recreation opportunities.

The first workshop is Dec. 11 from 6:30-8:30pm at South Tahoe High School’s Student Union. A second workshop is Dec. 12 from 6:30-8:30pm at Kahle Community Center in Stateline.

Feedback from these workshops will be used to develop recommendations for two recreation plans for the South Shore which include the Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan for South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County and the Tahoe Basin Recreation and Tourism Plan for Douglas County.

Anyone 15 and older is invited to participate and share ideas.

For more information, contact Tracy Franklin at (530) 542.6093 or go online.

Calif. projects years of budget surpluses

By David Siders and Jim Miller, Sacramento Bee

In its most optimistic budget forecast in more than a decade, the Legislature's fiscal analyst said Wednesday that California is poised for years of multibillion-dollar surpluses.

However, even a moderate economic downturn could throw the state back into deficit, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office said. The analyst projected a $5.6 billion surplus by June 2015 and urged lawmakers to hold much of it in reserve.

The fiscal outlook is a prelude to annual budget negotiations at the Capitol, where the expectation of a surplus will foist pressure on Democratic lawmakers to increase spending in budget talks next year. Many social service advocates limped out of the recession desperate to restore or expand programs for California's poorest and neediest residents, and despite modest spending increases many of their funding requests remain unfulfilled.

"There were many things cut that need to be restored," said Anthony Wright, director of the nonprofit advocacy group Health Access California. "We had cut the safety net beyond the pale. … We started to restore this past year, but only at the margins, and more needs to be done."

Read the whole story

Tree lighting in Kings Beach

The annual holiday tree lighting in Kings Beach will be Dec. 6 from 5-7pm at the North Tahoe Event Center.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be attending.

The North Tahoe School Jazz Band and Tahoe Music Institute students will be performing holiday classics.

The Friends of the Library are hosting a book swap so bring any new or used books to swap. There will also be several holiday crafts for kids.

UNR museum to display moon rocks

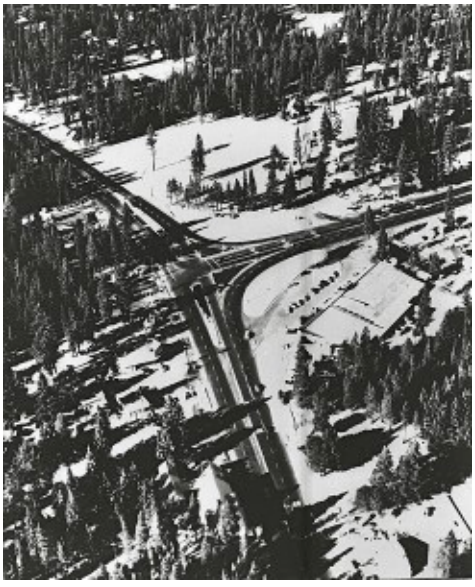
The state of Nevada’s official moon rocks, brought back to Earth by astronauts in the Apollo moon-landing missions, will be on display at UNR’s W.M. Keck Museum. The public is invited to the unveiling of the exhibit Dec. 13 at 4pm.

The Keck Museum is in the historic Mackay School of Mines Building at the north end of the quad. Its new extraterrestrial rock exhibit will include meteorites found in Nevada and tektites, gravel-sized natural glass formed by the impact of large meteorites on Earth’s surface.

Then and now: S. Tahoe Y doesn’t really exist



Circa 1940
Photo/U.S. Geological Survey



Circa 1959

Photo/ Lake Tahoe
Historical Society



2012
Photo/Google Earth

The circa 1959 (my best estimate) photo shows highways 50 and 89 while the junction was still a Y just before Lake Tahoe Boulevard connected (about 1960) and made it a four-way intersection in South Lake Tahoe.

The large empty lot at top was the 1940s site of the local school house. That building was moved and now is the Carpenters' Union Hall on Young Street. Later on that corner became a Safeway supermarket and an adjoining five-and-dime store in the building now occupied by T.J. Maxx.

The diagonal building at the right of the Y included Lampson's Market and a two-pump 76 gas station. That site became Lampson Plaza and then Factory Stores at the Y.

Across the street at left was the Tahoe Sierra Market and other small businesses where the large South Y Center (Raley's, etc.) now stands.

The Y really hasn't been a Y for more than 50 years, but it's

locally ingrained. We have South Y Center, South Y Fireplace, South Y Lodge, South Y Shops & Storage, and Factory Stores at the Y. In the early 1970s, a local disc jockey (“Little” Tommy Allen) tried to campaign for remarketing the Y as the Tahoe Valley Plus (+).

Many a tourist has asked, “Where is your YMCA?”

— Bill Kingman