Slew of citations during WCSO enforcement campaign

Of those stopped by the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office during the June “Joining Forces” event, two drivers were arrested on DUI charge, four on felony drug charges, and four on fugitive charges.

Other citations issued by deputies included:

99 speeding citations

38 cell phone/other distracted driving citations

21 citations for driver’s license related violations

26 motor vehicle registration citations

29 vehicle equipment citations

10 seat belt citations

4 child seat citations

28 citations for failure to show proof of insurance

32 citations for drivers failing to yield the right of way

30 citations for running a red light.

Additional citations and written warnings totaled 96. The sheriff’s office joined the Nevada Highway Patrol, Reno Police Department and Sparks Police Department for this event aimed at increasing intersection safety.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Ray Jarvis has been hired as public works director for South Lake Tahoe. He has the same title in Mammoth.

• Sierra Nevada Cancer Center opened a cancer treatment center at 1154 Emerald Bay Road in South Lake Tahoe.

• The annual Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit is Aug. 19 at Sand Harbor State Park at 10am.

• Tim Kuzanek, a 20-year veteran of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office, was promoted to undersheriff.

• Here is Caltrans' roadwork schedule for the Sierra for the coming week.

Tales of Tahoe come to life cruising on the Dixie

By Kathryn Reed

ZEPHYR COVE – Lake Tahoe history is best delivered by one who

lived it. So it was appropriate that Mark Twain greeted us as we boarded the M.S. Dixie II.

Twain's roots in the area run at least as deep as the lake itself – 1,645 feet.

This outing on Lake Tahoe is part history lesson, part outdoor adventure, and part scenic cruise.

I board the boat July 5 with two of my cousins – Dana from Arizona and Jenna from Missouri. This is the first time any of us has been on the Dixie. (This is actually the second Dixie. The platform of the first one is now a barge stored at the Tahoe Keys Marina that comes out for the fireworks.)



Heading out of Emerald Bay aboard the M.S. Dixie II. Photos/Kathryn Reed

We had been up to the parking lot at Vikingsholm a couple days earlier to peer down at the bay and see it from land. Now was our opportunity to view it from the lake.

Far out on the lake we are able to see a tiny strip of white on the mountainside. It turns out to be Eagle Falls, which is right above Vikingsholm.

The highlight for many on these trips is seeing Vikingsholm as well as the teahouse on top of Fannette Island. (The castle is open during the summer for tours.)

Between “Mark Twain” (aka MacEvoy Lane) and the recorded information coming across the loud speakers, the history of Lake Tahoe starting with the Washoe people unfolds.

The problem, though, with sitting outside on the bow with the wind coming at us is that the voices are a bit muffled and we miss much of what is being said.

Still, we learn how the first road to Emerald Bay opened in 1913, that a glacier formed the bay, the scar to the left at the end of the bay is from a 1955 600-foot avalanche that closed the road for one year.

More recent, we are told 15 eagles wintered at the mouth of the bay – which is called Eagle Point – and they left three weeks ago.

It’s crowded on this holiday weekend. All the cruises were expected to sell-out during the long weekend. Arrive early because we had a hard time finding a seat outside. People had thought it a good idea to reserve their chair and then leave. Not so fast said some of the other passengers.

The Dixie has two interior floors, one of which has a small area where you can see through to the bottom of the lake. Food and beverages are available, and there is a small souvenir shop on board.

The other paddleboat Aramark runs on the South Shore is the Tahoe Queen. It is a true paddle-wheeler because the paddle is its sole power source. The Dixie has an engine. The difference also means the cruising times differ. The Dixie takes two hours for the Emerald Bay trip and the Queen 2½ hours.

The Dixie holds 525 people and is the largest cruising vessel on the lake, while the Queen can take on 380.

The Queen leaves from Ski Run Marina and the Dixie from Zephyr Cove.

The annual race between the boats is during Labor Day weekend.

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Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Bella

Bella is a 3-year-old black Labrador who is a bit confused at being in the shelter – and no wonder, she was surrendered because she barked at night while her owner was at work.

She is a very sweet dog who will do better in a home where her people are with her at night, and who give her plenty of exercise (and maybe a companion dog or cat) so she isn't lonely during the day. She is house trained and very polite and affectionate.

Bella is spayed, microchipped, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats (including lots of kittens) who are waiting for their new homes.

Go online to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the

shelter.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz

Editorial: Kids deserve a good breakfast

Publisher's note: ***This editorial is from the July 5, 2013, Sacramento Bee.***

It's common sense that kids who start classes when they are reasonably fed are better able to learn.

But despite the resources available to provide breakfasts in schools, not enough is being done to provide proper morning meals for the students who need it most.

According to California Food Policy Advocates, only 27 percent of low-income students in Sacramento County participated in their school's breakfast program in the 2010-11 academic year. Involvement was similarly mediocre in Yolo and Placer counties, which posted rates of 24 percent and 31 percent, respectively.

Read the whole story

Smoke from Bison Fire fills Carson Valley



A plume of black smoke rises July 7 from the Bison Fire. Photos/Sharon Resnikoff



Bison Fire from Kingsbury Grade.



Bison Fire’s smoke covers the sky.

Sharon Resnikoff sent these photos to *Lake Tahoe News* of the Bison Fire that is burning in the Pine Nut area of Douglas County. Some were taken from Highway 395 and others along Kingsbury Grade.

The fire started July 4 after lightning struck the area.

Non-residential buildings have been consumed in the inferno. More than 9,000 acres are charred.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Trail workers needed on Daggett Summit

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association is looking for volunteers to work on the Daggett Summit project throughout the summer.

Workdays are every Tuesday and Saturday in South Lake Tahoe. To learn more and to sign-up click here.

This project has moved 3 miles of trail from city streets to forest. The project also adds 13 miles of new trail to the Tahoe Rim Trail system by building the Van Sickle Connector Trail and the Daggett North East Loop.

For any questions or concerns, call (775) 298-0239

Wine event benefits library chapter

The eighth annual Wine For Words fundraiser for the Friends of the Library Placerville Chapter is Aug. 25 from 4-8pm at the Placerville Library, 345 Fair Lane.

Kevin Smokler, author of the book “Practical Classics—50 Reasons to Reread 50 Books You Haven’t Touched Since High School,” will be the guest speaker.

Tickets are $50 per person with limited seating available. Buy tickets at the Placerville Library at 345 Fair Lane, Placerville, or from Face in a Book bookstore in the El Dorado Hills Town Center.

For more info, call (530) 621.5540.

Truckee River cycling

Cycling the 8.03 miles from Tahoe City to Squaw Valley’s village is pretty easy – even for people who don’t often pedal.

Calif. female prisoners sterilized without permission

By Corey G. Johnson, Center for Investigative Reporting

Doctors under contract with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation sterilized nearly 150 female inmates from 2006 to 2010 without required state approvals, the Center for Investigative Reporting has found.

The women received tubal ligations in violation of prison rules during those five years – and there are perhaps 100 more dating back to the late 1990s, according to state documents and interviews.

From 1997 to 2010, the state paid doctors $147,460 to perform the procedure, according to a database of contracted medical services for state prisoners.

The women were signed up for the surgery while they were pregnant and housed at the California Institution for Women in Corona or Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, which is now a men's prison.



Crystal Nguyen, with son Neiko, 6, says Valley State Prison infirmary staff offered sterilizations. Photo/Noah Berger/CIR

Former inmates and prisoner advocates say that prison medical staff coerced the women, targeting those deemed likely to return to prison in the future.

Crystal Nguyen, a former Valley State Prison inmate who worked in the prison's infirmary during 2007, said she often overheard medical staff asking inmates who had served multiple prison terms to agree to be sterilized.

"I was like, 'Oh my God, that's not right,'" Nguyen, 28, said. "Do they think they're animals, and they don't want them to breed anymore?"

One former Valley State inmate who gave birth to a son in October 2006 said the institution's OB/GYN, Dr. James Heinrich, repeatedly pressured her to agree to a tubal ligation.

"As soon as he found out that I had five kids, he suggested that I look into getting it done. The closer I got to my due date, the more he talked about it," said Christina Cordero, 34, who spent two years in prison for auto theft. "He made me feel like a bad mother if I didn't do it."

Cordero, who was released in 2008 and lives in Upland San Bernardino County, agreed. But she added: "Today, I wish I would have never had it done."

The allegations echo those made nearly a half-century ago, when forced sterilizations of prisoners, the mentally ill and the poor were commonplace in California. State lawmakers officially banned such practices in 1979.

During an interview with CIR, Heinrich said he provided an important service to low-income women who faced health risks in future pregnancies because of past cesarean sections.

The 69-year-old Bay Area physician denied pressuring anyone. Referring to the $147,460 total, he said, "Over a 10-year

period, that isn’t a huge amount of money, compared to what you save in welfare paying for these unwanted children.”

The top medical manager at Valley State Prison from 2005 to 2008 characterized the surgeries as providing inmates with the same options as women on the outside.

Daun Martin, a licensed psychologist, also contended that some pregnant women, particularly those who were on drugs or homeless, would commit crimes so they could return to prison for better health care.

The California Institution for Women in Corona was one of two state prisons where female inmates were sterilized without required state approvals. At least 148 women received tubal ligations in violation of prison rules from 2006 to 2010.

“Do I criticize those women for manipulating the system because they’re pregnant? Absolutely not,” Martin, 73, said. “But I don’t think it should happen. And I’d like to find ways to decrease that.”

Martin denied approving the surgeries, but at least 60 tubal ligations were done at Valley State while she was in charge, according to the state contracts database.

Federal and state laws ban inmate sterilizations if federal funds are used, reflecting concerns that prisoners might feel pressured to comply. California used state funds instead, but since 1994, the procedure has required approval from top medical officials in Sacramento on a case-by-case basis.

But no request for tubal ligations has come before the health care committee responsible for approving such restricted surgeries, said Dr. Ricki Barnett, who tracks medical services and costs for the California Prison Health Care Receivership Corp.

The receiver has overseen medical care in all 33 of the

state’s prisons since 2006, when U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson in San Francisco ruled that the system’s health care violated the constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

The receiver’s office was aware that sterilizations were happening, records show.

In September 2008, the prisoner rights group Justice Now received a written response to questions about the treatment of pregnant inmates from Tim Rougeux, then the receiver’s chief operating officer. The letter acknowledged that the two prisons offered sterilization surgery to women.

But nothing changed until 2010, after the Oakland organization filed a public records request and complained to the office of state Sen. Carol Liu, D-La Cañada Flintridge. Liu was the chairwoman of the Select Committee on Women and Children in the Criminal Justice System.

Prompted by a phone call from Liu’s staff, Barnett said the receiver’s top medical officer asked her to research the matter. After analyzing medical and cost records, Barnett met in 2010 with officials at both women’s prisons and contract health professionals affiliated with nearby hospitals.

The 16-year-old restriction on tubal ligations seemed to be news to them, Barnett recalled. And, she said, none of the doctors thought they needed permission to perform the surgery on inmates.

“Everybody was operating on the fact that this was a perfectly reasonable thing to do,” she said.

Martin, the Valley State Prison medical manager, said she and her staff had discovered the procedure was restricted five years earlier. Someone had complained about the sterilization of an inmate, Martin recalled. That prompted Martin to research the prison’s medical rules.

Martin said she and Heinrich began to look for ways around the restrictions. Both believed the rules were unfair to women, she said.

“I’m sure that on a couple of occasions, (Heinrich) brought an issue to me saying, ‘Mary Smith is having a medical emergency’ kind of thing, ‘and we ought to have a tubal ligation. She’s got six kids. Can we do it?’ ” Martin said. “And I said, ‘Well, if you document it as a medical emergency, perhaps.'”

Heinrich said he offered tubal ligations only to pregnant inmates with a history of at least three C-sections. Additional pregnancies would be dangerous for these women, Heinrich said, because scar tissue inside the uterus could tear.

Former inmates tell a different story.

Michelle Anderson, who gave birth in December 2006 while at Valley State, said she’d had one prior C-section. Anderson, 44, repeatedly was asked to agree to be sterilized, she said, and was not told what risk factors led to the requests. She refused.

Nikki Montano also had had one C-section before she landed at Valley State in 2008, pregnant and battling drug addiction.

Montano, 42, was serving time after pleading guilty to burglary, forgery and receiving stolen property. The mother of seven children, she said neither Heinrich nor the medical staff told her why she needed a tubal ligation.

“I figured that’s just what happens in prison – that that’s the best kind of doctor you’re going get,” Montano said. “He never told me nothing about nothing.”

But Montano eagerly agreed to the surgery and said she thinks it had a positive effect on her life.

Dr. Carolyn Sufrin, an OB/GYN at San Francisco General

Hospital who teaches at UCSF, said it is not common practice to offer tubal ligations to women who've had one C-section. She confirmed that having multiple C-sections increases the risk of complications.

But even then, Sufrin said, it's more appropriate to offer women reversible means of birth control.

Lawsuits, a U.S. Supreme Court ruling and public outrage over eugenics and similar sterilization abuses in Alabama and New York spawned new requirements in the 1970s for doctors to fully inform patients.

Since then, it's been illegal to pressure anyone to be sterilized or ask for consent during labor or childbirth.

Still, Kimberly Jeffrey says she was pressured by a doctor while sedated and strapped to a surgical table for a C-section in 2010 during a stint at Valley State for a parole violation. Jeffrey, 43, was horrified, she said, and resisted.

"He said, 'So we're going to be doing this tubal ligation, right?'" Jeffrey said. "I'm like, 'Tubal ligation? What are you talking about? I don't want any procedure. I just want to have my baby.' I went into a straight panic."

Jeffrey provided copies of her official prison and hospital medical files to CIR. Those records show Jeffrey rejected a tubal ligation offer during a December 2009 prenatal checkup at Heinrich's office. A medical report from Jeffrey's C-section a month later noted that she again refused a tubal ligation request made after she arrived at Madera Community Hospital.

At no time did anyone explain to her any medical justifications for tubal ligation, Jeffrey said.

That experience still haunts Jeffrey, who lives in San Francisco with her 3-year-old son, Noel. She speaks to groups

seeking to improve conditions for female prisoners and has lobbied legislators in Sacramento.

State prison officials “are the real repeat offenders,” Jeffrey added. “They repeatedly offended me by denying me my right to dignity and humanity.”

Corey G. Johnson is a reporter for the independent, nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting, the nation’s largest investigative reporting team.