California lawmakers revive early abortion provider bill

By Jeremy B. White, Sacramento Bee

More medical professionals, including nurses and midwives, would be permitted to perform certain early abortions in California under a bill unveiled Tuesday.

In a news conference at the Capitol that served to both introduce the bill and mark the 40-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision, lawmakers and women's health advocates said the measure is necessary for women in communities without abortion providers.

They said 52 percent of California counties do not contain a provider, other than hospitals, which often have only limited services.

"California will not go back. We are going to go forward," said Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara. "And we are doing that by making sure that reproductive health care, that abortion services are available to every woman, to make sure that we all have access, whether we live in rural areas or urban centers, whether or not we are able to afford the procedure or whether we require assistance."

Assembly Bill 154 by Assemblywoman Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, would revive last year's push to expand abortion access by allowing nurse practitioners to perform nonsurgical early abortions.

Gov. Jerry Brown ultimately signed a diluted version of the bill that allowed only non-doctor clinicians trained through a specific pilot program to perform the procedure. The bill extended that program, jointly administered by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and UC San

Francisco, until Jan. 1, 2014.

The California Nurses Association opposed the initial version of last year's bill, saying it would be premature to expand beyond a pilot program before researchers at UC San Francisco completed a multiyear study. The organization also had concerns about providing proper training and ensuring that the bill provided for an early first-trimester technique.

That landscape has changed now that UC San Francisco has completed its study and seen the results published in the American Journal of Public Health, Amy Everitt, state director of NARAL Pro-Choice America, said at the rally.

The study concluded that trained nurse practitioners, physician assistants and certified nurse midwives could safely perform early abortions.

The nurses association is pleased that the study has been completed but is still developing its position on the bill, said Bonnie Castillo, government relations director. She said the organization has already held "productive" meetings with the bill's sponsors aimed at clarifying some of the bill's language.

"We anticipate that's going to be achievable, but right now we believe that it's just a process," Castillo said.

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7 people in running for 1

South Tahoe council seat

Updated: Jan. 24 11:35am

By Kathryn Reed

The four South Lake Tahoe council members will have at least seven people to choose from to fill the vacant seat.

Five had turned in papers, with two more turning in papers today – Brooke Laine and Bruce Grego.

Laine is a former council member, having stepped down in 2002. That was the year Kathay Lovell was elected. Lovell also wants back on the council. She chose not to run after eight years on the council.

Grego was on the November ballot for re-election – to which voters said no to him.

Bill Crawford, another ex-councilmember, is also contending for the seat. He, like Lovell, also chose not to run in 2010.

Austin Sass, who has been on the Planning Commission, but did not seek reappoint this week is running. He has been on the ballot twice and voters have not selected him.

Lake Tahoe Community College instructor Scott Valentine and chiropractor Howard Bittner are the two political newcomers vying for the seat.

People have until 5pm Jan. 25 to fill out the application.

The seat came open when Claire Fortier in December quit two years into her four-year term. Laine was Fortier's campaign

manager.

All candidates will be interviewed starting at 9am Jan. 29 at Lake Tahoe Airport.

“I will be conducting a randomized alphabet drawing similar to the process the California secretary of State uses which is set forth in the California Elections Code to determine the order of interviews,” City Clerk Suzie Alessi said in an email.

The council will set the interview process that morning. Mayor Tom Davis will be participating via teleconference, which means all votes will be by roll call. The four could use a coin flip to decide who the fifth candidate is or some other method if there are not three votes for one candidate, or they could call for an election in June.

Adventure writer to give talk at LTCC

Lake Tahoe Community College Writers’ Series is hosting Tracy Ross, author of the memoir “The Source of All Things”, on Feb. 7 at 7pm in the Aspen Room.

The evening will include a reading, discussion and book signing.

The event is free and open to the community. Books will be available for purchase.

Ross is an award-winning journalist and contributing editor at *Backpacker* magazine. Her essay “The Source of All Things” won the National Magazine Award in 2009 and has been selected for inclusion in The Best American Sports Writing and The Best American Magazine Writing.

Ski report: May be messy mix

A mix of snow and rain is expected.

Here is the Jan. 24 ski report.

— Curtis Fong

4.0 quake hits south of Markleeville

A shallow magnitude 4.0 earthquake was reported Thursday morning 13 miles from Markleeville, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The temblor occurred at 12:21am at a depth of 8.1 miles.

According to the USGS, the epicenter was 18 miles from Alpine Village, 18 miles from Dardanelle, 32 miles from South Lake

Tahoe and 99 miles from Sacramento.

In the past 10 days, there have been no earthquakes magnitude 3.0 and greater centered nearby.

– Los Angeles Times

Blood drive in Incline

North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Feb. 8 from 9am-4pm at the main fire station located at 875 Tanager St., Incline Village.

Food and beverages will be provided courtesy of the Hyatt Regency Resort and U-Bake Pizza.

To make an appointment, call (775) 831.0351, ext. zero.

Potential 2014 Sochi Paralympians in Lake Tahoe for qualifying snowboarding competition

By Kathryn Reed

Fifty-four riders from eight countries will be competing this

weekend at Sierra-at-Tahoe in the first qualifier for the 2014 U.S. Paralympic snowboarding team.

Today begins a two-day camp for riders, with the race on Sunday.

With the folks associated with next year's Olympics in Sochi, Russia, deciding less than a year ago to include snowboarding in the Paralympics, riders are scrambling a bit.

"I have personally met several of the athletes. They are inspiring as they have overcome their disabilities, and not only get on the mountain – but can beat about half of us through a race course," Sierra General Manager John Rice told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Some of these disabled U.S. athletes and coaches at a World Cup event will be in Tahoe this weekend. Photo/Provided

Sunday's race will be on the boardercross trail on Smokey. It is tied to the USASA event the same day.

More than 20 officials from the International Paralympic Committee and U.S. Paralympic Committee will be in town this weekend.

Brent Kuemmerle, who has a prosthetic leg, has been instrumental in getting people with physical disabilities into high-level competition. It doesn't get higher than the Paralympics.

With the assumption Sochi would not host snowboarders at the Paralympics, Kuemmerle decided it was time to return home to the South Shore and open the Tahoe Adaptive Competition Center. He figured he had until 2018 to have athletes ready for the next Paralympics.

Then Sochi officials changed their mind and Kuemmerle was in limbo. Potential Paralympians are sticking with one of the three established U.S. resorts where they have been training.

"This camp was going to be my coming out party," Kuemmerle said.

And while it won't have the splash for TACC it would have had if TACC were home to future Paralympians, Kuemmerle is not giving up on his dream. He is still bringing recognition to his business, to Sierra and Lake Tahoe as a whole.

"Tahoe Adaptive Competition Center is a new organization, but it's an extension of everything I've been doing for close to 15 years," Kuemmerle told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He spent the previous two winters coaching a disabled snowboarding team in Winter Park, Colo., home of one of the largest Paralympic training centers in the world. But it's a mountain known for skiing, not snowboarding.

"At Winter Park you are on the hill five days a week training, then to the recreation center and work on off hill training – weights, swimming, running. That is what I intend to bring to Tahoe," Kuemmerle said.

He envisions other winter sports like Nordic skiing, downhill and sled hockey being components of TACC. Then he wants to

branch out into summer sports.

TACC has a five-member board, volunteers and coaches with Sierra and Heavenly Mountain Resort.

“I believe his heart is in the right place, and once he gets his organization off the ground it will be successful and a great addition to the South Tahoe winter recreation community,” Rice said of Kuemmerle.

History: A memorable weekend at the Pope Estate

Publisher’s note: ***This is reprinted with permission from the August 1989 Lake Tahoe Historical Society newsletter.***

At the Pope Estate: August 18, 1925

Dear Agatha,

You asked me to describe our weekend at Lake Tahoe but I fear that I cannot do it justice. From Tahoe City we were driven in an open car by a silent, careful chauffeur to Mr. Pope’s estate. We arrived a two in the afternoon, our minds filled with the most gorgeous sights of the lake, the mountains, the trees and the granite formations. After resting for a few hours in the quiet, we wandered along the paths, among the

tall, grand old trees and into the estate gardens where we sat in a gazebo for a time. Around five we went to see the men play polo but it was very noisy and hot in the field so went to wander and wade beside the lake.

Supper was served outdoors on the veranda where we were served wonderful salads and even venison steak. The sound of wind in the trees, the smoke from the outdoor fireplace, the beautiful view of the lake and the ambiance of the woods gave the food added flavor.

The next morning we joined four other guests in the runabout for a try at fishing. The boat was lowered from the boathouse into the water on the railroad rails, then pulled over to the dock so that we could board without getting our feet wet. Only a few yards away from shore, the beautiful Pope House was hidden from view among the trees. Some of the guests climbed Mt. Tallac that day, but it was too much for us. We fancied we could see them up on the side of the mountain but I do not think we really could. We caught ten cutthroat Trout which were cooked by the Popes' excellent cook for our noon meal. I have never eaten better or fresher fish.

That evening there was a formal dinner party and we might have been at a San Francisco society soiree. The food was grand, the music lively, the guests the most elegant I have ever met. The constant attention of the servants made me realize just how nice it would be to be rich. This all occurred within a single weekend and it is one I will never forget. I with you had been with us.

Love, your sister, Clarinda

Opinion: Young environmentalists approach the world differently

By Ben Goldfarb

The generation of young people now entering the workforce — call us Millennials, or Gen Y, or the Vast Unemployed — has a very different relationship with environmentalism than our forebears did. The stereotype of the conservationist hurling himself between the whale and the harpoon is increasingly anachronistic and so too is the image of courageous litigators taking down evil polluters.

For better or worse, the modern environmentalist is more likely to partner with a chemical company than prosecute one.

It is true that alliances between environmental groups and corporations can benefit both the planet and companies' bottom lines. Yet all too often, these partnerships serve to facilitate greenwashing and conceal destructive corporate behavior.

The challenge that the next generation of sustainability leaders face is to make sure that green business partnerships are genuine, that they are more than PR stunts.

We recognize that trying to tackle environmental problems without directly engaging private industry is probably folly — not to mention bad politics. However, despite having lived our lives with the consequences of corporate recklessness and unbridled consumption, we have capitulated to the system, in a sense: rather than trying to overthrow it, we increasingly

elect to work within it.

So how does a cadre of young idealists bent on social change infiltrate companies who are deeply invested in the status quo? The same way any agent penetrates any institution: we need disguises.

In 2008, Tommy Hayes was working for Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2), a national network of sustainable business leaders, when the economy hit the skids. “Overnight, the only salient conversations in DC were about jobs,” Hayes remembers.

“And the business leaders had much better credentials than the strict environmentalists – their arguments were smarter, punchier. They had better insight into how money moves and motivates.”

Hayes recalls telling himself that that was how the game worked and that’s how he was going to play it.

Hayes, now 28, is a joint-degree student at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Yale School of Management. Because of his scientific background, business school didn’t come naturally, he says, but moving away from his comfort zone was the whole point. “I can’t exactly throw open a company’s books and tell you what it all means, but now I can speak the lingo – and that makes a huge difference,” he says.

Given that the phrase “young environmentalist” is synonymous with “naïve” in many minds, using the right lexicon is crucial to avoiding quick dismissal.

I’ve observed a similar dynamic in 350.org’s Do The Math campaign, aimed at convincing universities to divest from fossil fuel companies. While the forebears of these activists would have been chaining themselves to condemned trees, modern crusaders have an intimate knowledge of their schools’ investment portfolios and speak the language of investor

responsibility and rates of returns.

Divestment activists are no less passionate than their predecessors, but they're more clinical; their weapon of choice is the 20-page report and the movement of money.

Of course, the ability to talk the talk means a lot more when it's accompanied by real expertise. Charissa Rujanavech, also a Yale master's student, abandoned a nascent career in conservation biology to pursue corporate sustainability after she decided that safeguarding wildlife populations was too small-scale to meet the environmental challenges at hand.

Rujanavech, 26, now studies life-cycle analysis, which charts the environmental impact of the materials that go into the creation of a product and beyond, and translated her new skills into an internship in the sustainability department of a major athletic company.

"When you manufacture a million shoes a day," Rujanavech says, "you can make a small change in how much water or toxics go into a product and still have a huge impact."

But convincing a company to make even a small change is no easy matter. After all, large corporations have been wildly profitable since long before the entry of green business principles into the mainstream. I've spoken with several people who have worked in corporate sustainability and, after their ideas were routinely and summarily rejected, came to realize that their department served as its de facto public relations.

That's why tomorrow's sustainability leaders will have to be as effective at communicating their message to those higher-up in the company (and the public) as they are at crunching numbers.

Plenty of green industries and industrial techniques rely on new, esoteric business models and processes. "You need to tell

a powerful story to explain how these things work," says Bonnie Frye-Hemphill, who at 26 is already a clean-tech veteran. "People already know what Chevron does. But how do you explain what, say, Solar Mosaic does in a clear and compelling way?"

Similarly, Hayes says that business school has served as an informal crash course in psychology, one that's helped him reframe environmental concepts in terms that appeal to business minds.

In this fiscal climate, an even greater challenge than communicating big ideas is finding money for them. Many green initiatives are turning away from traditional funding sources – government grants and subsidies and NGO money – and toward crowd-funding. Solar Mosaic uses online contributions to put solar panels on buildings and then pays back investors (with interest) through energy savings.

A New York-based startup called ioby crowd-funds projects like community gardens and street beautification, while sites like RocketHub and Petri Dish solicit funding for scientific and environmental research. Navigating and exploiting these platforms is already a requisite skill for environmental leaders.

Yet no matter how thoroughly young environmentalists manage to integrate themselves into the corporate world, it is imperative that they remain, on some level, removed from it.

"Businesses have been allowed to operate in destructive ways for years," says Hayes. "I feel comfortable telling them to shape up."

For every company that voluntarily embraces green principles, there are five more that have to be shoved toward sustainability, and would happily cut corners if too-credulous environmentalists allow it.

Our generation may not feel antagonism toward private industry, but it's essential that we retain a healthy skepticism of its motivations.

Ben Goldfarb is a master's student at the Yale School of Forestry and co-editor of Sage magazine.

California park passes can be bought when filing tax return

By Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee

Californians can purchase a state parks annual pass on their income tax return for the 2012 tax year.

The pass costs $195 and provides unlimited day-use access for one year to 130 state parks, or about half of all parks in the California Department of Parks and Recreation system. Taxpayers can also contribute more than $195 and the additional amount is tax-deductible and will go to support park operations.

The program was created by AB 1589, a state law approved in September and authored by Rep. Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, then in the Assembly.

Only one pass can be purchased per tax return, and only if the taxpayer expects a refund at least equal to the price of the pass.

The passes cover daily admission fees, not additional fees such as camping and boat launching.

The "Contributions" section of the 540 and 540a tax returns

contains a new line to enter the price of the parks pass, and a description is found on Page 15 of the instructions for the forms.

For more information, including a list of parks that accept the annual pass, go online.