Archives center opening at Virginia City museum

The Historic Fourth Ward School Museum in Virginia City will host a grand opening of its Archives and Research Center on Aug. 1 at 2pm.

The archival collection is housed on the bottom floor of the 1876 nationally significant schoolhouse. The collection consists of historic documents, photographs, maps, books and memorabilia pertaining to the Fourth Ward School, Comstock history, mining, VCGH Water Company, Sutro, and genealogy of local families.

Research will be available by appointment and by request. For more information, contact the museum at (775) 847.0975. The museum is at 537 South C S., Virginia City.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• South Lake Tahoe Fire Department is having a public Badge Pinning Ceremony on Aug. 3 from 3-4pm at the senior center for the department's three new firefighters and 19 reserves.

• South Tahoe High School's Student Union will be dedicated Aug. 24 at 10am. At noon the school board will head down to South Tahoe Middle School to cut the ribbon on the new Mountain Vista building.

• The Steve Walker Band will be at Valhalla on the South Shore on July 31 at 7:30pm. Tickets are $18 in advance, $20 at the door – (530) 541.4975.

• Here is Caltrans' roadwork schedules for the coming week for El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra.

• Artist Michael Godard will visit Wyland Galleries in South Lake Tahoe on Aug. 4 from 6-9pm.

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care opens doors to public for one day

By Cheryl Millham

Things are really hopping at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

To bring you up to date, I would like to list all of our current occupants, which you can expect to see if you visit us for our annual Open House on Aug. 5th (10am to 4pm).

What a wonderful event we expect to have. There will be so much to see.

We have three bobcats, five bear cubs, 13 raccoons, three golden eagles, a sharp-shinned hawk, a red-tailed hawk, a sparrow hawk (American Kestrel), a saw-whet owl (one of the smallest owls in the United States), along with two ravens,

several squirrels, chipmunks, songbirds and a river otter.

We have lots of steller’s jays and robins, including three mountain blue birds, which we very seldom receive at LTWC.

What is our annual Open House? Once a year, California Fish & Game allows LTWC to open our doors to the public and let them come into our compound. LTWC volunteers will take groups of people around the center and show them the birds and animals in house and relay the stories of how they came into our care.

We will have LTWC T-shirts and other products for sale.

Upstairs, in our clinic, there will be chairs set up where you will be able to sit and watch the bears and other birds and animals playing on our closed circuit BEAR TV. We have nine cameras in different cages for your enjoyment.

The BEAR League will be set up with literature and be happy to speak with you about how to co-exist with Tahoe bears.

Back downstairs for some cake (provided by MontBleu) and punch.

So, plan to drop by Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care (1485 Cherry Hills Circle, South Lake Tahoe) on Aug. 5 between 10am and 4pm.

For additional information, call (530) 577.2273 or go to our website.

Cheryl Millham is executive director of Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe.

Athletes use clothing to keep them cool

By Joe Palca, NPR

The cool weather in London is good news for the Olympic athletes because their bodies won't need to put as much energy into cooling off.

But most of us aren't lucky enough to be headed to London, and we could use some help keeping cool.

When you get hot you sweat — but it's not enough to just sweat. To cool off, you need that sweat to evaporate. It's evaporation that drains the heat from your body.

To help the sweat evaporate, you want air to flow over your skin — as much of your skin as possible. So the best clothing for people to wear when exercising is none at all.

That's according to George Havenith, a professor of environmental physiology and ergonomics at Loughborough University in Leicestershire, England.

"They would probably want to wear some underwear to just cover up and be comfortable in that way. But in terms of the heat loss, the naked person is best able to lose heat."

That's only if the sun's not shining. If the sun's out, you need clothing to protect your skin from burning.

Read the whole story

N. Tahoe Historical Society putting on two tours

The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society will host two tours in August: the annual Home Tour, and the Historic Bus Tour.

The Home Tour (Aug. 2) is exclusive to NLTHS members. Individuals may purchase membership for a $30 annual fee ($5 for full-time students).

The Historic Bus Tour (Aug. 24), which is open to the public, attracts a large crowd, and will likely sell out.

The Home Tour takes place on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe, bringing guests through historical Tahoe homes and unique modern homes. Guests have the opportunity to take in the details of the homes' unique architecture and character. Tickets are $55.

The Bus Tour takes participants down the fabled West Shore this summer. The tour guide is local Tahoe author Mark McLaughlin. McLaughlin will regale guests with little-known facts and the weather quips and anecdotes for which he is known. A picnic lunch is included with the ticket price. Tickets are $60 for NLTHS members and $70 for non-members.

To make reservations or to get more information on the tours, call (530) 583.1762 or go online.

Full moon party at Squaw

Squaw Valley is hosting the resort's first Full Moon Party at High Camp on Aug. 2. Slated to take place amidst the brightest full moon of the summer, the party will feature a line-up of five disc jockeys playing from 8pm until 2am on the mountaintop.

The Full Moon Party is restricted to ages 21 and over. Tickets are $29 and include the ride up to the party on Squaw's tram. Tickets can be purchased online.

Opinion: Title IX was terrible for female coaches

By Megan Greenwell

I once had a soccer coach who stalked the sideline in cowboy boots, snarling helpful commentary such as "Man up!" and "Don't be a sissy!" When I broke my arm diving for a ball during practice, he asked if I was going to "cry like a girl" or get back in position. Being a 14-year-old girl, I cried.

I never played for anyone else who seemed to disdain girls quite like Coach Cowboy Boots, but he did have something in common with every other coach I had during 15 years of playing organized sports: a Y chromosome. From kindergarten rec-league soccer through two years of Division I college fencing, I never played for a female coach.

That puts me in good company. Female college athletes have never been less likely to have a female coach. The same trend

holds in this summer's Olympics: Of the five sports in which the United States is fielding a women's team under a single head coach — basketball, field hockey, soccer, volleyball and water polo — only the soccer coach is a woman.

Surprised? After all, opportunities for female athletes have skyrocketed since Title IX prohibited gender-based discrimination in educational institutions 40 years ago this summer. More than 200,000 women play college sports today, compared with 16,000 in 1972. When the Olympics opened on Friday, the U.S. team included more female athletes than male ones for the first time.

And there's the dirty little secret of Title IX: Female coaches have become a casualty of the same law that provided such huge benefits to female athletes. In 1972, more than 90 percent of the people coaching women's teams were women. Today, that number is 43 percent, according to data compiled by two retired Brooklyn College professors who have tracked the number of female college athletes and coaches in the United States since Title IX became law.

The explanation for the downward trend is as simple as it is discouraging. By legitimizing women's sports, Title IX bestowed a new level of respect — and significantly higher salaries — on college coaching jobs, transforming them from passion projects for the most dedicated women's sports advocates to serious career paths. When she began her career at the University of Tennessee in 1974, legendary basketball coach Pat Summitt earned $250 a month. Before retiring at the end of last season, she drew a salary of more than $2 million.

As soon as salaries began to rise, more men became interested in jobs coaching women, says Judy Sweet, a longtime athletics administrator who became the NCAA's first-ever female athletic director of a combined men's and women's program at the University of California at San Diego in 1975. Assistant coaches of men's teams saw a chance to be promoted faster by

applying to head-coach jobs on the women's side. Job opportunities doubled for graduating male athletes who weren't going pro but wanted to stay in the game. Athletic directors, whose ranks have always been overwhelmingly male, increasingly hired other men for open positions.

The result has been a consistent decrease in the percentage of female coaches. In 1987, the share of women's teams coached by women dipped below 50 percent for the first time. Since 2000, men have been hired for more than two-thirds of open jobs coaching women's teams.

"In too many cases, athletic directors take the easy way out," Sweet says. "Instead of actively recruiting outside of their networks, they hire the people they already know, and their networks are likely to be male-dominated."

In other words, the institutional factors that have kept women out of coaching in the Title IX era are the same ones that have kept them out of the ranks of executives and partners and board members. Study after study shows that men are more likely to hire other men across many professions, even when there are equally or better-qualified female candidates. That gradually discourages many women from applying for those positions, exacerbating the problem.

Meanwhile, women are almost never seriously considered for jobs coaching men — not a single woman coaches male Division I athletes in a team sport — so the total proportion of female coaches is less than 20 percent. The percentage of female coaches increases slightly at schools where a woman heads the athletic department but remains under 50 percent.

When girls and young women don't have the chance to be coached by women, they lose an opportunity to have strong female role models. Having exclusively male coaches sends female athletes the message that coaching jobs aren't for them. And when athletic directors consistently hire men over similarly

qualified women, they send the message that men make better leaders.

Because I never had a female coach, my female sports role models were exclusively athletes, from Florence Griffith Joyner to Brandi Chastain. I was 15 when Chastain scored the championship-winning penalty kick in the 1999 World Cup, then ripped off her jersey in celebration. Though I was no longer playing soccer, I wanted to be just like her.

Chastain says that aside from serving as mentors, female coaches show their athletes a viable career path in the sport to which they've dedicated their lives. After the Women's Professional Soccer league folded this year – the second failed attempt to create a U.S. pro league – coaching college teams is one of the only ways for retired players to make a living in the game. And though the best female basketball players can get by in the WNBA, where salaries range from $36,570 to $105,000, coaching offers a much more stable option. Title IX was just the first step toward legitimizing women's sports; fully leveling the playing field means giving women a chance to make their game their career.

"Ultimately, I hope that women stay in sports if they've played their whole life and gained all this experience," Chastain says. "I would hope that they would be able to share it."

Chastain, 44, had a roughly equal number of male and female coaches during her soccer career, but she knows that's increasingly rare for younger athletes. The generation gap is apparent among coaches as well – especially in basketball, the most prominent women's college sport, which has seen the percentage of female coaches drop from 79.4 to 59.5 percent in the Title IX era. The most prominent female college coaches – Summitt, Stanford's Tara VanDerveer and Rutgers's C. Vivian Stringer, among others – are either retired or in the twilight of their careers. Although Summitt was replaced by a female

assistant coach, the percentage of paid female assistant coaches has dropped in the past 20 years, weakening the national pipeline.

Sweet and an alliance of women are trying to reverse the trend. In 2003, Celia Slater, then the women's basketball coach at Division II Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., earned an NCAA sponsorship for a series of four-day workshops designed to boost female college coaches' leadership and communication skills as well as their networks. Last year, Slater and Sweet expanded the effort into the Alliance of Women Coaches, a professional-development group for coaches at any level that aims to increase the number of women in sports leadership.

But Sweet says she's not optimistic. "I wish I could say I think the numbers are about to stop going down, but the signs don't point that way," she says. "It requires breaking this cycle of male university presidents hiring male board members hiring male athletic directors hiring male coaches."

Qualified female candidates are out there, agrees Chastain, who volunteers as an assistant coach under her husband, Santa Clara University women's soccer coach Jerry Smith. Asked if she's considered becoming a professional coach, she sighs.

"I've put myself out there to U.S. Soccer and others several times, and I haven't heard back," she says. "I'm hoping it will happen at some point."

Megan Greenwell, a former Washington Post staff writer, is a Los Angeles-based writer and editor and co-founder of Tomorrow magazine.

Lousy economy means older recruits for military

By Diana Lambert, Sacramento Bee

Military recruiters may be the only people happy about the faltering economy because the high unemployment rate in Northern California is buoying recruitment numbers despite a dearth of eligible candidates.

Rampant obesity and a lack of education has made it difficult nationally for the U.S. military to find fresh recruits for several years.

But a relentlessly poor economy has the eligible lining up for spots in the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force for salaries that start at $1,491 a month, medical benefits and a monthly housing allowance.

“Here in Northern California, Stockton and Modesto has some of the highest unemployment in the nation, making the military a more viable option,” said Rod Kise, spokesman for the U.S. Army’s Recruiting Battalion – Sacramento, which covers Northern California, southern Oregon and parts of Nevada.

Air Force officials report the same trend nationwide. “When the economy dipped down we saw an increase of traffic in our office,” said Christa D’Andrea, a spokeswoman at the Air Force Recruiting Service headquarters in San Antonio. “It’s very competitive to join the Air Force right now.”

The result: Recruits are getting older.

Kise said that more men and women in their mid-20s are signing up instead of the 17- to 24-year-olds that usually make up the bulk of new recruits.

“We are seeing more families – husbands and wives,” Kise said.

They are looking for paychecks and benefits to help care for their families, he said.

Lt. Col. Eric Espino, commander of the 364th Air Force Recruiting Squadron at Mather Park in Sacramento, said the recent influx of candidates also can be attributed to the high cost of college and an expanded GI Bill that helps veterans pay for college.

Read the whole story

---

2 cycling bridges to be replaced in South Lake Tahoe

Ball fields group sitting on half a million bucks

By Kathryn Reed

Cyclists in South Lake Tahoe will soon have a less bumpy ride across two bridges.

The old Douglas fir planks on the structures spanning Trout Creek and Upper Truckee River will be replaced with a material similar to what is on the 15th Street Bridge. Even road bike riders should be able to use them.



Bike trails in South Lake Tahoe will be upgraded this year. Photo/LTN file

The allocation of $30,000 to get this work done was granted July 27 by the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority board. It's anticipated the city's public works crew can do the job this building season.

Friday morning's three-hour meeting at Lake Tahoe Airport was the JPA's annual meeting. An unexpected expense for the JPA board was the need to pay El Dorado County $44,000 for the assessor's office to notify property owners of the annual assessment. When this was first done in 1991, it cost $11,000. El Dorado County Supervisor Norma Santiago, who also chairs the JPA board, is going to research why the fee has quadrupled and see if it can be lowered.

With the passage of Measure R, which altered the original language of Measure S to allow for more flexibility in spending recreation dollars, the JPA will now meet twice a year. The next meeting will be in January, though no specific date was agreed to.

The bike improvement money comes from Measure R and would not have been allowed under Measure S. One of the significant changes in the measures was to allow for current trails to receive maintenance funds.

The other thing the bike committee recommended and the board agreed to is to put $100,000 as matching dollars for a $600,000-plus grant that would go toward cycling on the South

Shore.

If the grant were not secured, it would have to be decided if the $100,000 goes into trails or is again used as a tool to go after more money. Notification should come in October if South Tahoe is awarded the grant.

The other component to Measure R is that the ball fields – baseball, softball, soccer – have $500,000 now to spend. But the committee tasked with making recommendation to the board had nothing definitive to recommend. This, despite the members having met for half a year.

Sue Novasel, who is on the Lake Tahoe Unified School District board, made a pitch for the high school softball field to get $45,000. (She is not on the ball field committee.) That field has taken up an inordinate amount of the committee's time. Issues with state and federal laws involving equality of boys and girls' facilities is at stake.

South Lake Tahoe City Councilman Hal Cole, who is on the JPA board, said to *Lake Tahoe News* after the meeting, "Are we going to do the high school field which is not part of the JPA?"

He said if the JPA puts money into that field, then the JPA will have further responsibilities for that field down the road.

"We need to fund the biggest priority and go from there," Cole said. He doesn't want to do a bunch of insignificant improvements.

John Upton, the lone paid staff member of the JPA, said it's possible if the fields committee comes up with a true recommendation for the board, that a special meeting could be called.

"I think everyone supports a third field at the Al Tahoe site.

I feel it will be a field for baseball and softball. The committee needs to decide that," Upton said after the meeting.

Steve Knoll and Chuck Leonard, field committee members, gave a presentation to the board about the state of fields on the California side of the South Shore. (The recreation measure's boundaries are essentially the same as Lake Tahoe Unified.)

The field and bike committees plan to keep meeting and figuring what is best for Tahoe.

As was pointed out by some at the meeting, the cycling community had an edge because a master plan through the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency exists. No master plan is in place for the fields. The committee could as the board to fund a master plan, but what was proposed to voters was the taxpayer money would be used on actual field upgrades, not a planning document.

Mountain lion sighting in Zephyr Cove

Mountain lions eating deer – that's how the food chain works. It's something that goes on every day in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Because a mountain lion killed a mule deer close to the stables of Zephyr Cove's stables this week, the Nevada Department of Wildlife set a trap. But nothing was caught.

“It has been taken away,” Chris Healy with the Nevada Department of Wildlife told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Since it was a mountain lion doing what it’s supposed to do we probably won’t set another trap.”

It was such a non-event for the resort that the spokesman didn’t even know about it until *Lake Tahoe News* called Friday.

Bobcats also prowl the basin and have been increasing in numbers as the rabbit population grows, according to Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report