

Custody of pets can be tricky in a divorce

By Ben Steverman, Bloomberg

Rudy is a 9-year-old German shorthaired pointer with a regal personality and loving owners who are divorced. The humans in his life agreed to a shared-custody arrangement: Every two weeks, Rudy goes back and forth between their two homes in Western Massachusetts.

It was an informal deal, worked out with no help from a divorce court. During the breakup, however, Christina Trinchero and her ex-husband brought up the subject of Rudy with their lawyers. “Both of them said: ‘Sorry, we can’t help you with that. You have to figure it out on your own,’” she recalls.

Traditionally, the law sees pets as property, no different from a couch or a house plant. That can feel bizarre, given that the average dog or cat has a market value of zero—and, in fact, can cost thousands of dollars to feed, walk, and keep healthy. But emotional attachment can turn a beloved pet into a valuable bargaining chip in divorce negotiations.

Read the whole story

LaVerne Hansen – 1927-2016



LaVerne Hansen

Longtime South Lake Tahoe resident Beverly LaVerne Hansen died April 3, 2016. She was 88.

She was born in Enumclaw, Wash., on July 27, 1927.

In 1948 at the age of 21, she married Ellery Einess and they were married for over 50 years. Together, they had four children, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

The family moved to Fremont in 1960 and established their home at their beloved Lake Tahoe in 1973.

In addition to her work in finance, LaVerne was an avid volunteer for the Barton Memorial Hospital and the Cancer League; accumulating more than 25,000 volunteer hours with the hospital. This is the most hours by any one person and she was proud to show her accomplishment memorialized on the hospital auxiliary plaque.

LaVerne loved to travel and would accompany Ellery on his many

destination golf trips. After Ellery passed, she continued to travel with girlfriends to places such as Alaska, Panama Canal and Caribbean.

LaVerne was preceded in death by her husband, her two sons, Paul and Randy, and three grandchildren.

She is survived by son Gregory, daughter Christine, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

LaVerne will be laid to rest at the Happy Homestead Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, LaVerne would wish that a donation be made to the South Lake Tahoe Cancer League or Barton Memorial Auxiliary.

Lab expands shared work space concept in SLT



Mountain Lab in South Lake Tahoe is bringing different businesses under one roof. Photo/LTN

By Kathryn Reed

Working in isolation is not always an ideal situation. But renting office space in a prime location is expensive. Then there are all the other costs – utilities, snow removal, signage. And on the South Shore parking can be a problem.

Mountain Lab is the answer. (They've let the Tahoe in the name go to give them marketing opportunities in other locations in the future.)

Ginger Nicolay-Davis of Help U-Sell Real Estate is already in her space, as is the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

"I love the Mountain Lab concept. I am so excited to go to work in a place surrounded by like-minded professionals," Nicolay-Davis told *Lake Tahoe News*. "I truly feel energy begets energy and I think the Mountain Lab is going to be the business center of the community."



**Companies renting space
at Mountain Lab:**

Admios

Aliens From the Future

BL Friedman Creative

CB Umbrella Group

Century 21, Tahoe
Paradise

Climate Parents

Code for America, Tahoe
chapter

Cooperative Tahoe Inc.

Darke Marketing

Enovity

Filament

Gringos

Handelin Law

Help U Sell Lake Tahoe

Inka Direct

Lake Tahoe South Shore
Chamber of Commerce's
Tactical Team

Lara Miller PR

Level Frames

R0 Anderson

Sage Engineering

Satin Legal
SMG
Tahoe Daily Tribune
Tahoe Heritage
Foundation
TCS Digital Marketing
Waddell & Reed
Wells Fargo
Wildscape Engineering.

Source:

Mountain Lab

Nineteen of the 24 private office spaces have been rented.

David and Jamie Orr are relocating the Ski Run business they opened a couple years ago to the old *Tahoe Daily Tribune* building that they bought. It will officially open May 15.

They have partnered with Bernard and Cristi Creegan. Bernard Creegan is the general contractor. It will be Cristi Creegan and David Orr running the day-to-day-operations.

For anyone who has been in the building that fronts Highway 50 and Harrison Avenue they won't recognize the inside. The main entrance is to the left of the building when facing it, at the back end of the city owned parking lot. David Orr admits the parking lot – which the Lab's clientele may use – was a huge draw.

The old front entrance leads to where the shared work areas are. This is for regulars and drop-ins. About 30 percent of the Lab's business on Ski Run had been people working there on an irregular basis – people on vacation, here seasonally, or needing a place to bring clients/customers.

The old back entrance on the right that the editorial staff used will be how people enter to get to the 49-person

conference room. This can be used by those already in the building or rented by an outside entity.

The façade has been overhauled. The old *Tribune* sign will be going to the Lake Tahoe Historical Society. The morgue – newspaper speak for where archives are kept – had been in a dingy upstairs location. Much of the material is with the historical society. The space no longer exists, instead there are high ceilings. Some of the infrastructure of the building will remain exposed.

This old building had been renovated a few times – at least in the late 1980s and 2003. It still needed help.

Insulation has been added, more windows installed and single pane ones replaced with double pane. Large ceiling fans are on a sensor to push the warm air down. Lights are new, too. The hope is the energy efficiency will drop utility bills in half.

The drywall is quiet rock, which is designed to control sound. Floors are stained concrete.

Included in a business' rent are utilities and Internet. It's up to them to pay for a landline.

Individual offices range from 93- to 230-square-feet. The *Tribune* takes about 2,500-square-feet. That is about what the total space of the Ski Run location had. This building is about four times the size of that one.



Bernard Creegan is one of the four owners of Mountain Lab as well as the contractor on the renovation. Photo/LTN

Brenda Knox with Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors said the space and location will be great for clients. She is also “looking forward to the energy of working in a collaborative space with other business people.”

Everyone has access to shared areas. The break room, so to speak, is what the general public enters through first. The south facing entrance is bright and airy with plenty of natural sunlight. Old books from Ken Smith, one of the first doctors on the South Shore, fill one section. Wall art is more than just something to look at. It is made out of recycled cotton, which absorbs sound instead of merely deflecting it.

One thing the Orrs learned from the Ski Run site is there has to be a separation between work and social spaces.



Jose Ribera-Quinonez, Rafael Ayon-Meza and Ceja Gonzalo create a new look for an old building. Photo/LTN

When people walk through the doors toward what used to be the front of the building, it is considered a quiet zone. This doesn't mean it will be library quiet, but there will be a sense of respect that work is taking place, people are on the phone, clients may be in the building and professionalism should be the norm.

There are shared spaces in the work area too. A hallway will have white boards on it; a setting for impromptu brainstorming sessions.

Another thing the Orrs learned is people want a shower at work. This is because so many of these workers are living the Tahoe lifestyle – meaning they may bike to work, ski part of the day or play outside midday. But they want to be clean at work.

“The Mountain Lab is about selling a lifestyle and community in many ways,” Orr said.

Community is a big part of the concept – with people mentoring each other, helping and collaborating. Many also socialize together.

4 ways to put your tax refund to good use

By Odysseas Papadimitriou

California has a tax refund problem. But probably not the kind you think. Despite facing the country’s 11th highest tax burden, Golden State residents receive the 10th largest average annual refund, at roughly \$2,900. That might at first seem like a good thing, but you have to consider where the money is going.

For starters, that hefty refund is proof California taxpayers give the federal government an annual interest-free loan of nearly \$40 billion, according to IRS data. Not only that, but you’re also paying into an especially inefficient state bureaucracy, as California boasts the country’s sixth worst taxpayer return on investment, according to WalletHub research.

So step one in approaching this year's refund should have nothing to do with spending. Rather, it should be to make the arrangements necessary to avoid one next year. Beyond that, there are a number of great ways to put Uncle Sam's giveback to good use. We'll highlight some of the best options below.

1. **Pad your safety net:** Far too many Americans have far too little saved to withstand job loss, a major emergency expense or an economic downturn. In fact, 92 percent of Americans fall short of even the most conservative age-based savings targets, according to the National Institute on Retirement Security.

As a result, the best application for your tax application is to stash it away for a rainy day (even though the real thing is few and far between for Californians). Such a financial safety net will act as insurance against unfortunate events and can be easily converted to retirement savings if they don't come to pass.

2. **Pay off collection accounts:** The newest credit-scoring models stop considering collections accounts, both medical and otherwise, once they've been paid off or otherwise settled to the collector's satisfaction. So if you have a mortgage or auto loan in your near future, or otherwise need the best possible credit, biting the bullet and getting such accounts off your plate could produce immediate credit-score gains and thereby save you a lot of money on future borrowing.

3. **Reduce your credit card debt:** Nationwide, credit card debt is reaching dangerous levels reminiscent of the Great Recession. We racked up \$71 billion in credit card debt during 2015 alone, including a monster \$52 billion fourth-quarter buildup that dwarfed the totals for 2010 and 2011 combined, according to CardHub data.

Things aren't quite as bad in South Lake Tahoe, as the average resident with a credit card balance owes "just" \$5,576,

compared to the national average of \$7,879. But that Lake Tahoe figure still generates hundreds of dollars in interest each year and should therefore be dealt with as soon as possible.

Your tax refund can take a chunk out of what you owe, itself producing considerable savings, and a zero percent balance transfer credit card can keep the saving-train going if you have good or excellent credit. Offers for 15-month zero percent financing with no transfer or annual fee exist, for example.

4. **Invest in your credit score:** The average South Lake Tahoe resident sports a credit score of 661.02, which is only in the 37th percentile nationally but is still considered “good.” But good is not excellent, and your monthly mortgage, car loan, car insurance and credit card payments are the proof.

Investing some time, effort and money into your score will not only help you save on all of the above, but it could even pave the way to a new job or apartment. Paying off collection accounts, getting current on delinquent payments and making sure you always pay your bill by the due date here on out will all aid your efforts.

At the end of the day, it’s important to wisely allocate tax refund money. But it’s also important not to be too hard on yourself if you don’t. California is the 25th most financially literate state in the country, according to WalletHub, so you’re generally in good financial shape.

Odysseas Papadimitriou is CEO of the personal-finance website WalletHub, which offers free credit scores, full credit reports, 24/7 credit monitoring and customized money-saving advice.

Businesses looking to attract Gen Z

By Howard Riell, Las Vegas Sun

Generation Z may reside at the tail end of the alphabet, but marketers who fail to give it top-of-mind attention do so at their own risk.

Experts may differ on when the earliest members of Generation Z (also called iGen or post-millennials) were born, with opinions ranging from 1990 to 2001, but it's agreed they share some traits as consumers. And businesses with an eye on the future should know what they are and how to address them.

"The next generation of American consumers is ethnically diverse, tech-savvy and on the move," said Chicago-based research firm Technomic Inc. in its recent study, "GEN Z: Decoding the Behaviors of the Next Generation." "They are discerning consumers. ... As they mature, they are more influenced by their peers and by digital and traditional media."

"Gen Z is the first generation to experience multichannel and digital marketing on a daily basis, and almost since birth," said Jackie Rodriguez, senior manager at Technomic. "As older Gen Zers' sphere of influence widens, they still look to outside sources of information rather than making independent decisions."

Read the whole story

Historic Tahoe boathouse's transformation into idyllic theater a test in patience and love



Lake Tahoe is the backdrop from the Boathouse Theatre.
Photo/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

A woman named Spain and a man known as Dr. Love, along with a cadre of other devoted arts aficionados, are responsible for transforming what was a dilapidated boathouse into an iconic theater.

This summer the Boathouse Theatre at Valhalla is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The Tahoe Tallac Association, now known as Valhalla Tahoe, celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2009.

There was a time when the boathouse was slated for demolition.

"We looked at the two big boathouses. The architectural historian said you could take one down if you retain one," Bill Morgan told *Lake Tahoe News*. He was forest supervisor of Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit from 1975-85. Both still exist today, but it was the one that is now a theater that was eyed for demolition.

When Morgan came on board the plans on the books were to raze most of the buildings at the site.

Carol Spain and others challenged that thinking when they proposed creating an arts and cultural center out of what had been estates owned by wealthy San Franciscans.

To do so would take money and hours of volunteer time. Musicians and other artists donated their time. But the group needed more money. A friend of Spain's introduced her to Barbara Vucanovich, a Nevada congresswoman at the time.

"She said come see me," Spain recalled. "She introduced me to some people; that started the whole ball rolling seeking federal money." That was the first of many visits where the purpose was to get money from the feds. After all, the land to this day is still owned by the U.S. Forest Service.

Dave Kurtzman was along for three of the excursions. Those turned out to be more about relationship building than check writing.



Valhalla Boathouse Theatre 20th anniversary fundraiser – Lucky Baldwin Poker Promenade and Concert featuring Radoslav Lorkovic is June 25 at 6pm. Lucky

It was a meeting in Tahoe that really got the purse strings to loosen up. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., was speaking at a local Rotary meeting that Kurtzman and Spain decided to attend. They prearranged for a private meeting with the senator that included Dennis Crabb, who was then city attorney of South Lake Tahoe, along with some of Reid's aides.

"We got a quarter million dollars," Kurtzman told *Lake Tahoe News*. "I think the Forest Service was ticked off because the quarter million just got moved from other funds."

That was the seed money needed to make their dream a reality. And it sealed the deal with the reluctant USFS office that the arts festival was staying.

Spain left Tahoe – and therefore the Tallac Association – in 2002. She plans to come back next month for the anniversary celebration.

Leo Buscaglia's influence

Leo Buscaglia – aka Dr. Love – first became acquainted with the Tallac Association after he attended one of the Starlight Jazz concerts at the Forest Service amphitheater. Through a mutual friend Spain secured tickets for him to the sold-out show. Spain was reluctant to do so at first; she didn't know who Buscaglia was and such favors were met with caution.

"Leo came up to me and said this was the most wonderful experience under the stars and the great music. He said if I if ever need any help, just get in touch with him. That was

Baldwin, Claire Heller, George Pope and other historic characters will be at various stations between Valhalla and the Baldwin Museum. Various stations around the Tallac Historic Site will offer food and drinks, and interpretive history. The concert will follow the poker run. Cost is \$75. Tickets are available online.

the wrong thing to say,” Spain said with laughter.

Buscaglia had been a professor at USC, and in the 1960s taught a class called Love. Through that course, his books and lectures he became known as Dr. Love.

He moved to Glenbrook permanently in 1989. He died nine years later from a heart attack. By the time of his death he had sold more than 11 million books.

Spain soon figured out who Buscaglia was and decided to tap him to help raise money for the boathouse renovation. Harveys had a speakers series at the time, which Buscaglia headlined a few times. He arranged for most of the proceeds to go to the boathouse renovation.

Before the boathouse was renovated, the Grand Hall at Valhalla is where performances were staged. Buscaglia would bring his books, sign them and then give the boathouse the proceeds.

When Buscaglia died his estate gave \$40,000 to the boathouse.



The boathouse was neglected for years before the arts community took over. Photo/USFS

A bit of history

William Tevis as part of his 75-acre estate built the boathouse in the late 1800s.

He later sold the parcel to George Pope Sr. of the Pope & Talbot Lumber and Shipping Company. Pope's boat, The Sheik, was stored in the boathouse that is now the theater. At the time it was the biggest and fastest boat on the lake.

Pope in 1924 sold 3.3 acres to San Francisco financier Walter Heller, with the boathouse being part of that transaction.

The boathouse at one time had four bedrooms and a bathroom on the second level.

The Forest Service acquired the estates between 1965 and 1971. In total the area is 74 acres.

Before the arts group took over the boathouse it had fallen into disrepair and was being used for storage.

It was the late Bob Harris who as the forest supervisor green lighted the renovation of the boathouse.

The transformation

"I was always borrowing stuff from the casinos ... pianos, speaker systems, you name it," Spain said. "They were tearing up the Harrah's stage and replacing it. Supposedly it was cherry wood and many famous people danced on it. They trucked it out to the empty boathouse. The carpenters looked at it and said you can't use it."

That example spoke to the generosity of the community and the stumbling blocks to get the work done.

The Stateline casinos were huge supporters of what was going on on the other side of the South Shore. Lights and sound systems were donated. Workers gave their time.

Ken Kurtzman was the architect on the project. (He, too, plans to be at the party in June.)

Everything had to be photographed before work could begin because of the historical nature of the building. Interviews with anyone who might have a speck of information about the old days were conducted, including with members of the Washoe tribe.

An apartment used to be upstairs where the bathrooms and sound system are today. Originally the second floor was going to have balcony seating, but because there was no way of working the bathrooms into the first floor design, they went upstairs instead of the added chairs.

The floor was naturally sloped, which made it ideal for a theater. The old tracks for the boats were covered. Outside, though, they are still prominent. The seats came from an old

theater in Colorado.

"The exterior is pretty much exactly how it was," Dave Kurtzman told *Lake Tahoe News*.

That's true in terms of aesthetics.

"When I started working out at Valhalla with the Forest Service in the '70s at that time the only thing holding up the boathouse was the big tree next to it. It was really rickety," Steve Yonker with Yonker Construction told *Lake Tahoe News*. "To begin with there were cables inside holding things together. We replaced those with cross members. There was quite a bit of engineering in there."

Yonker was one of few contractors to work on the renovation. He built the stage and installed insulation.

"We had to deal with the big doors on back so they could be opened up with a view right to the lake," Yonker said.

The roof, siding and single-pane windows were replaced.

Jail inmates provided some of the labor.

For actors, though, there are still constraints. There are no dressing rooms. The back is tiny.

"The boathouse when you saw it, it was in a rough state. It was kind of just a wild dream that came true," Spain said. "To have those doors open, to have the glass wall and pianist on stage in front of it ... it is just a lovely, lovely experience. So, when it all came together, it was better than the dream."



The exterior of the boathouse looks much like it did when it was used to store watercraft. Photo/Provided

Modern day

While a variety of musical and theatrical performances have graced the stage of the boathouse in the last 20 years, the facility is still in need of upgrades.

The curtains came down earlier this spring for cleaning and all festival director Evangeline Elston could think about was what if they fell apart.

“The boathouse really needs a lot of TLC,” she told *Lake Tahoe News*.

A fundraiser on June 25 is designed to be part celebration of the theater’s milestone anniversary, an opportunity to recognize those who made it a reality and for the public to learn that more needs to be done.

“I would like to completely revamp the technology – the

lighting, sound system. I would like to do interior stuff that would not be invasive to the look and feel, but might improve how it works, like lighting in the back of the house,” Elston said. And replacing the curtains is also on the to-do list.

Changing the lights to LED will cost a minimum of \$15,000. Besides being more energy efficient, the threat of fire would be greatly diminished.

Every time the building is closed up for the night the circuit breakers are flipped so the lights can’t just come on because if they did, the fear is that a fire would start based on how hot the lights are and that the building is old wood.

The association plans to do an in depth needs assessment so by the end of the season the board of this nonprofit has a better idea of the costs associated with doing all the wanted upgrades.

The boathouse fundraiser is June 25, three days after the season opens.

Meyers chiropractor offering free posture screenings

In response to Posture Awareness Month, Joshua Welch is offering free posture screenings this month at Safe Haven Chiropractic in Meyers.

Included is a free report and exercises to reverse poor posture in young children and adults.

Welch teaches that, “Maintaining correct posture and correct alignment is one of the foundations to healthy living. It can

reduce injuries, decrease flare-ups and allow athletes to maintain elite performance.”

The monthlong awareness effort educates professionals and the public about the negative health consequences of bad posture, particularly related to modern technology, and works to highlight resources and health information to correct these issues.

Call 530.577.5433 to schedule an appointment.

Barton offers variety of support groups

Barton Health has created three new support groups targeting diverse populations.

- **Perinatal Challenges Support Group**

Being a mother is one of the hardest jobs. If you are an expecting or new mom looking for people who understand what you are going through, join this support group. All parents with perinatal mood and anxiety challenges are welcome. The group meets every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30pm, 1077B 4th St., South Lake Tahoe. For more information, contact Bridget Demaree at 530.543.5549 or bdemaree@bartonhealth.org.

- **Tobacco Free Support Group**

Share experiences and get support from others on the journey to a tobacco-free lifestyle. Learn additional strategies and tools to help you through challenges. Starting June 1, meetings will be Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm at 1077B 4th St., South Lake Tahoe. Sign up at fit.bartonhealth.org under

Addiction Resources. For more information, call 530.543.5549.

- Mommy and Me Support Group – Toddler (12-36 months)

This group meets every Thursday, 10am-noon at 1077B 4th St., South Lake Tahoe. Share experiences and discuss the joys and challenges of parenting. Get support from other mothers as well as professional support from a childbirth instructor and guest speakers. Speakers and topics vary. For more information, contact Bridget Demaree at 530.543.5549 or bdemaree@bartonhealth.org.

2 concerts in SLT for Mother's Day

Tahoe Choir and Lake Tahoe Community College Chorus are putting on a concert this weekend titled A Mother's Day Gift of Song.

On May 6 at 7:30pm, they will perform in LTCC's Duke Theatre, and then on May 8 at 3pm at St. Theresa Church, 1041 Lyons Ave. in South Lake Tahoe.

Songs will range from joyful Renaissance madrigals, Vivaldi's "Magnificat," to songs like the barbershop piece "Lida, Rose," the famous lullaby "The Little Horses," "Goodnight, my Angel" by Billy Joel, "What a Wonderful World," and other musical gems.

Performances will include guest string and oboe players, plus a children's choir.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and kids under 5 are free. They are available from any choir

member, at the LTCC Bookstore, or one hour before showtime.

‘Paper Tigers’ coming to S. Lake Tahoe

El Dorado County Mental Health in South Lake Tahoe is offering two free showings of the film “Paper Tigers.”

The film demonstrates how one person can intervene and change the outcome of a young person’s life. It highlights how toxic stress can have a significant impact on the developing mind and can lead to issues such as substance abuse, academic difficulties, depression and suicide. The film follows a year in the life of several students at an alternative high school in Washington and how the school radically changed its approach to helping students.

There will be a discussion following the film.

The film will be shown:

- May 11 at 7pm at South Tahoe High School. Doors open at 6:30pm. The event is expected to end at approximately 9:30pm.
- May 20 at 7pm in the Duke Theater at Lake Tahoe Community College. Doors open at 6:30pm. The event is expected to end at approximately 9:30pm.

The film is appropriate for older teens, parents, school staff, community members, and anyone who interacts with adolescents and young adults.