

Comedy film being shot in El Dorado County

By Mark Anderson, Sacramento Business Journal

A local movie production is the middle of filming in Sacramento and El Dorado counties using some Hollywood talent.

The film stars model Sean O'Donnell and young but veteran actress Allie DeBerry, who at age 20 has 24 credits in movies and television productions. Veteran actor Gary Busey plays the lead character's baseball coach.

"Mamaboy" is targeted at a teen comedy audience, said Jonathan Morken, the film's publicist.

Read the whole story

EDC explorers rack up awards in state contest

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post 457 returned home winners last month from the Riverside Police Explorer Competition.

The group competed against more than 25 of the top explorer teams from throughout California.

They took home the following awards:

- First – Unknown Risk Traffic Stop Scenario
- First – Officer Down Scenario
- Third – Individual female explorer physical agility-

- obstacle course (Explorer Deputy Rachel Dehlinger)
- Fifth – Crime Scene Investigation Scenario
- Fifth – Individual male explorer physical agility-obstacle course (Explorer Deputy Steven Ross).

The team was made up of Morgan Sears, Courtney Granade, Rachel Dehlinger, Laura Russell, Faith Mulholland, Stefanie Davidson, Alan Szarmach and Steven Ross.

Explorers demonstrated their skills and were evaluated in several reality based scenarios including active shooter, pedestrian stop, officer down, emergency negotiations, domestic violence, felony traffic stop, unknown risk traffic stop, crime scene investigation, airsoft shooting, building search, and report writing.

Breast cancer surgeon challenges status quo

By Katie Hafner, New York Times

Late one afternoon this summer, Laura J. Esserman, a breast cancer surgeon at UC San Francisco, sat in a darkened room scrutinizing a breast MR.I. With a clutch of other clinicians at her side, she quickly homed in on a spot smaller than a pencil eraser.

She heard the words “six-millimeter mass.” Her response was swift:

“No.”

Meaning no biopsy.

Most doctors, including the radiologist seated next to her, would have said yes. But Esserman, who has dedicated much of her professional life to trying to get the medical establishment to think differently about breast cancer, foresaw only unnecessary anxiety for the patient, who had had several biopsies in the past – all benign.

Esserman, 58, is one of the most vocal proponents of the idea that breast cancer screening brings with it overdiagnosis and overtreatment. Her philosophy is controversial, to say the least. For decades, the specter of women dying for lack of intervention has made aggressive treatment a given.

Read the whole story

Panelists empower women to be change makers



Talking about how to get things done when

it seems impossible are, from left, Rebecca Bryson, Kathy Haven, Kristin York and Cindy Gustafson. Photos/LTN

By Kathryn Reed

KINGS BEACH – Creating change is not always an easy undertaking – whether it's personal or professional. But if it is to happen, it has to start with the individual.

That was the overriding message Oct. 2 as more than 100 people attended a daylong retreat in Kings Beach.

Women as Change Makers was designed to have an impact on women in the greater Lake Tahoe area by providing a series of diverse workshops. Rayona Sharpnack of the Institute for Women's Leadership was the keynote speaker, focusing on getting women to not be afraid to make positive changes in their lives.

The breakout sessions included:

- Making the Impossible Possible: Changing Systems Within Systems
- Global Change Makers
- Men as Partners to Women as Change Makers
- Sowing the Seeds of Local Food Systems
- The Art of Storytelling
- Getting it Done: Lessons from Female Innovators and Entrepreneurs.

The all-day event was a fundraiser for **Zawadisha**, an organization started by local Jen Gurecki that provides small loans for items with big impact to women in rural Kenya.

Tenacity and collaboration are two traits that kept surfacing

during the Making the Impossible Possible panel discussion.

"It's not just the how and what. It's the why. I think women are great persuaders," Cindy Gustafson, general manager of Tahoe City Public Utility District said. "Persuasion is not just talking, it's also listening."

She said to get things done it takes passion, persuasion, patience and persistence.

There was a time when putting in sidewalks in Tahoe City was met with so much resistance that others would have moved on to the next project. Not Gustafson. She put the four P's to work and eventually got the sidewalks put in.

Joining her in imparting ideas about how to overcome obstacles to get things done were Rebecca Bryson with Lake Tahoe Sustainability Collaborative, Kathy Haven, Bijou Community School two-way immersion program, and Kristin York, Sierra Business Council.

York stressed the need to find common ground to establish a working relationship so the differences could more easily be overcome.

Bryson has found that stories and emotions can paint a more poignant picture than just a bunch of facts and figures.

Haven touched on needing to know one's audience and change the delivery of the message to suit particular groups.

"Change is scary, but it's the only constant we have," York said. "Sometimes detractors make the project better."

Oftentimes people foresee an idea meaning more work. Coming in willing to do some of the heavy lifting could help the idea come to fruition.



Michelle McLean, from left, SunMie Won and Jana Vanderhaar discuss the importance of local food systems.

In the Sowing the Seeds of Local Food Systems talk the discussion centered on getting back to our agrarian roots.

“A lot of people don’t have basic cooking skills,” SunMie Won of Slow Food Lake Tahoe said. “A lot of food is heated or just assembled.”

Jana Vanderhaar with Verdant Connections and Michelle McLean of the Sierra House Elementary School growing dome project joined Won in promoting growing food locally.

McLean said parents at the South Shore school didn’t think their children would eat what was grown in the dome. At first the kids didn’t want to touch the soil, they were scared of bees and worms. They had to be taught this is how food is made – it doesn’t just come from a grocery store.

“This is life. It’s what we need to get back to,” McLean said.

The program is so successful in its first year full year that students are eagerly eating what they have sown, and no longer have a problem getting dirty to do the work needed to keep the domes alive.

“We’ve become so far removed from our food that we are scared of processing our own food,” Vanderhaar said.

She raises chickens and rabbits. The former for eggs and meat, and the latter for their meat, as well. She is the one who handles the butchering and preparation of the animals.

While all three admit growing edibles in the Tahoe-Truckee area is challenging, they also pointed out how it can be done with good results. While some in the audience were looking for a sure bet about what to grow and how to do it, the panelists said there is no foolproof way of farming in this climate or elevation, that it is a continual learning experience.

What they also all stressed is the need to know where one's food comes from – and the backyard is the way to ensure it is the freshest.

“Planting seeds really empowers everyone,” Won said.

WHS student earns \$10,000 scholarship

Whittell High School student Kelsey Kjer was one of 80 students in the country to win a scholarship from Nordstrom.

The senior was notified about the award last week at the school.

Teacher Cathy Johnson said Kjer was recognized because of “all her hard work during her high school career.”

In addition to receiving the \$10,000 check for college, Kjer was also given a Macbook Air. Nordstrom officials presented the award at the school.

More than 6,000 applications were received by the department

store chain.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Film captures struggle to develop BC wilderness

Alpenglow Sports has partnered with Patagonia and Sweetgrass Productions to present “Jumbo Wild,” a documentary film highlighting the 24-year fight over the future of British Columbia’s iconic Jumbo Valley. The film documents the tension between the protection of wilderness and the backcountry experience and the ever-increasing development interests in wild places, specifically the proposed 1,500-acre Jumbo Glacier Resort in British Columbia’s Purcell Mountains.

The geography, recreation opportunities and physical nature of the rugged and remote Jumbo Valley lie at the heart of the debate. Located at the headwaters of the Columbia River, Jumbo Creek cascades out of deep snowpack, past crumbling glacial ice, wildflowers and grizzly tracks. The Jumbo Valley has long been revered for its beauty, and to the Ktunaxa Nation, it is known as the home of the grizzly bear spirit. Part of an important international wildlife corridor, the Jumbo Valley is one of only two areas in North America where grizzly bears can freely roam between Canada and the United States.

In 1991, Oberto Oberti, an Italian-born Vancouver architect, and Grant Costello, a former Canadian ski coach, had a grand idea: They proposed building a ski resort with 20 chairlifts and a village in the remote Jumbo Valley, located five hours west of Calgary.

For decades, First Nations, conservationists, backcountry skiers and snowboarders have fought the proposed large-scale ski resort deep in the Purcell Mountains of British Columbia. After 24 years of opposition, the fight still rages on. Twenty-four years since it's inception, Jumbo Glacier Resorts has yet to build a single lift tower. However, their dream, despite turning in to one of the most contentious development issues in the mountain world, has not died.

The film documents all sides of a divisive issue bringing the passionate local fight to protect the Jumbo Valley to life, in film, for the first time.

Patagonia ambassador and former U.S. Ski Team member Max Hammer will host the evening. The screening will take place at 7pm Oct. 20 at Tahoe City's Tahoe Art Haus & Cinema. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased **online**.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Sweetie

Sweetie is a 6-year-old beautiful smoke longhair cat. She is

scared at the shelter, but she warms up quickly and loves to sit in laps and purr. She doesn't mind other well behaved pets, and likes to be brushed. Sweetie is an indoor cat.

Adoption fees for all of the adult cats and two of the dogs at the shelter have been sponsored by a very kind person, so all of these pets are now free to the right home.

Sweetie is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page 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

N. Nevada woman retiring as Dodgers organist

By Beth Harris, AP

Nancy Bea Hefley, whose organ has provided the musical backdrop to the action on the field for the Los Angeles Dodgers for 28 years, said Friday she will retire at season's end.

Hefley announced her decision before the three-time NL West

champions hosted San Diego in their final regular-season series. The 79-year-old organist has been playing at Dodger Stadium since taking over from Helen Dell in 1988. She has become as much a fan favorite as Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully and retired manager Tom Lasorda, who was at the helm when the Dodgers won their last World Series title in 1988, her first season.

She was honored on the field, receiving a Dodgers jersey and a bouquet of flowers from retired Dodgers pitching great Orel Hershiser, who starred on the '88 team. Manager Don Mattingly chatted with Hefley, who was surrounded by 15 family members.

"I told Mattingly, 'I came in with a World Series and I want to go out with one,'" she said, smiling.

She commutes to each homestand from her home in Silver Springs, near Dayton, while renting a second home locally. She is accompanied by her husband, Bill, whom she met while playing the organ at church.

"I have had a wonderful time playing for the Dodgers and their fans," she said. "My husband and I felt that this was the right time to settle down in our home in Silver Springs and eliminate all the travel. The Dodgers have told me I can come back and make guest appearances and I greatly appreciate this gesture. I hope to get back to Dodger Stadium on occasion."

Hefley doesn't plan her songs, instead taking cues from what's happening on the field during games. During Hershiser's stellar 1988 season, which included the NL Cy Young Award and World Series MVP honors, Hefley played "Master of the House" from "Les Miserables" for him.

While playing mostly traditional songs, she has stayed current with her own Twitter and Facebook accounts. However, Hefley's playing time has been diminished in recent years in favor of hip hop and rock music curated by an in-house DJ and stadium hosts. In June she posted on her Facebook page that she no

longer “fit in” and would not return next year. That created a buzz on social media and the team suddenly offered her a lifetime contract.

Hefley said Friday that this was the first season she finally felt it was time to leave her organ which is located in the stadium press box. She said she’s happy with her decision and looking forward to spending time at home.

Hefley, who grew up in Los Angeles, began playing the piano at age 4, and at 13 she talked her teacher into showing her the basics of the organ. She has played at county fairs and shows in Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe.

In the mid-’80s, Hefley filled in for a friend as the organist at a California Angels game. When Dell retired as Dodgers organist after the 1987 season, Hefley auditioned at an exhibition game and got the job.

In August, Scully said he expects 2016 to be his last season calling games for the team that he’s been with for a record 66 years. He turns 88 in November. Lasorda, who is 88, serves as special adviser to team chairman Mark Walter.

Former SLTPD officer loses battle with ALS



Robert "Bud" Heng

Robert "Bud" Heng passed away Oct. 1, 2015. He was 62.

Bud was a graduate of South Tahoe High School.

While he worked for the South Lake Tahoe Police Department he was recognized as Officer of the Year. He went on to serve with the DEA where he rose to the rank of supervisor out of the San Francisco office.

Bud was also a published author and licensed financial advisor.

He died as a result of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). It was diagnosed in February 2015.

He is survived by wife, Jodie; daughters, Brittany and Gabby; parents Robert and Marline; and brothers Scott and Jim.

Services are pending.

Fish and Wildlife conducting

art contest

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting an art contest to select the design for the state's 2015-16 upland game bird stamp. This year's stamp will feature the ring-necked pheasant.

The contest is open to all U.S. residents 18 years and over. Entries will be accepted through Dec. 30. Artwork must include at least one ring-necked pheasant, preferably in a habitat or setting representative of California. Entries will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and suitability for reproduction as a stamp and a print.

The contest will be judged by a panel of experts in the fields of ornithology, conservation, art and printing. The winning artist will be selected during a public judging event, with the date and location to be announced later.

For contest information and entry forms, go **online**.