

Memoir writing workshop in Meyers

Former Random House senior editor and memoir writing coach Jennifer Basye Sander is putting on a writing event Nov. 23 called Holiday Memories: Learn How to Create a Family Memoir this Thanksgiving.

At this workshop, Sander will help people get that book project started. She'll guide people through the process of putting memories onto the page and then turning them into a more structured personal memoir. Participants will be taught how to create a family memoir; capture, document and organize the stories; and, determine the theme of the memoir.

This is for writers, people thinking about writing a book, and those who just want to get out of the house for a few hours before the holiday madness sets in.

The workshop is from 6:30-9pm at Bona Fide Books, 1069 Magua St., No. 4, Meyers.

Register online. Cost is \$30, \$25 for seniors.

For more info, call Ingrid Lundquist at 916.719.1776 or email i.lundquist@events-TLC.com.

Film stars get intro to El Dorado County

By Ed Fletcher, Sacramento Bee

A spacious foothills ranch house north of Placerville was L.A. north on Monday as transplant filmmaker Deon Taylor continued work on his new movie “Meet the Blacks.”

The courtyard between the home and the garage – overlooking the rolling El Dorado County landscape – was the backlot as young actors and experienced comics took turns posing for pictures with comedy veteran Paul Mooney. Taylor, who is from Chicago but now calls Sacramento home, said he likes to shoot close to home and build the Sacramento film scene.

“While I’m independent and I can choose where to make it, I choose to do it where I can sleep in my own bed at night,” said Taylor, whose previous credits include “Chain Letter” and “Supremacy” with Danny Glover set to be released Jan. 30. “Meet the Blacks” stars comedian Mike Epps, but also features comedians Lil Duval, former boxer Mike Tyson, Mooney and others.

Films set in Northern California have been relatively rare in recent years in part because California’s film tax incentives were no longer competitive with other markets that give major rebates for movies being shot there, said Kathleen Dodge, executive director of the El Dorado/Lake Tahoe film and media office.

Read the whole story

Festival of Trees and Lights designed for whole family

Harrah’s Lake Tahoe’s showroom will be transformed into a winter wonderland with trees and wreaths decorated by school

children and local designers for the sixth annual Barton Health Festival of Trees and Lights is Dec. 3-7.

Throughout each day, attendees may watch holiday performances, shop for holiday gifts at Mrs. Claus' Gift Shop, and bid in the silent auction. Children can write to Santa and make crafts at the Gingerbread Junction, or get a family photo with the jolly old man.

This is Barton Foundation's largest fundraiser, with this year's proceeds going to Barton Hospice.

For adults looking for an elegant night out, the Gala is Dec. 6.

Children, along with their parents, are invited to bring their teddy bears to the Teddy Bear Brunch on Dec. 7. They can also stop by the Teddy Bear hospital any time during the festival for an animal-friendly check-up.

Entrance to Festival of Trees and Lights for public viewing is \$3 for children or seniors and \$5 for adults. To view a full event line-up, go to [online](#).

'Curtains' coming to STHS theater

South Tahoe High School's drama department is putting on "Curtains" this month.

It is a musical whodunnit set in 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Enter a local detective,

who just happens to be a musical theatre fan.

The cast includes Bjorn Hedqvist as the local Boston detective, along with Aurora Gooch, Bailey Anderson, Kori Zwijacz, Zane Brady, Dalton Daggs, Tyler Martin, Jered Stowell and 60 other performers, musicians and stage crew.

It is directed by Liz Niven, choreography by Marcia Sarosik, conducted by Casson Scowcroft, sets by Drake Niven, and choral direction by Alyssa Little.

Performances are Nov. 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7pm and Nov. 9 and 16 at 2pm in the South Tahoe High School TADA theater.

Tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors, \$5 for students 18 and younger. Tickets are available at the door or online.

Sandoval poised for the national stage

By Kyle Roerink, Las Vegas Sun

The Paradise Park Barber Shop sits in a strip mall still gripped by the recession. It's a suburban relic anchored by a Kmart, Family Dollar and coin laundry. Twelve storefronts in the plaza are empty. The barbershop is not the kind of place where you'd expect to find the CEO of a state paying for a trim. But every few weeks, a navy blue SUV pulls into the parking lot, and Gov. Brian Sandoval steps out.

At public appearances and in campaign ads, Sandoval looks like a man whose haircuts are fashioned by stylists. But the governor waits his turn for a \$14 trim surrounded by trophy buck mounts and bobblehead dolls in a strip mall 30 miles from

the Capitol.



Gov. Brian Sandoval is
golden in the Silver State.
Photo/LTN

When Sandoval walked in Oct. 16, he was met with handshakes and fawning. A customer who had been alerted the governor was coming handed Sandoval a grocery bag full of venison steaks. A picture of Sandoval and a local Boy Scout troop hangs on the wall. A collegiate pennant from Sandoval's son's college also has a coveted spot. No one talks politics. Why would they?

Sandoval's re-election campaign came without the negative ads, debates and vitriol seen in other statewide races. Despite being vulnerable on a number of fronts – education and health care among them – Sandoval didn't draw a single serious challenger. Even Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev, the architect of the state's Democratic machine, couldn't persuade anyone to step forward.

So why is a governor with an imperfect record being treated as untouchable? The answer lies partly in Sandoval's connections to the state's tight power structure and partly because of his knack to keep headlines positive while maintaining a clean-cut image that goes beyond his regularly trimmed hair.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Barry

Barry is a sweet Great Dane mix puppy who has fur like a cow – beautiful big black and white spots.

Barry has had a rough time of it so far in life, as he was abandoned when his owner moved. He must have had bad experiences with men, too, as he is quite suspicious of them. He is shy at first, but warms up quickly to women, and within minutes wants to climb into their laps and give kisses. Barry needs to go to a kind person who has the time and patience to work with him and build up his confidence.

Barry is neutered, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. He 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

LTCC to put on 'Leading Ladies'

Lake Tahoe Community College presents the madcap comedy "Leading Ladies" Nov. 14-23 in the Duke Theatre.

The leading ladies referenced in the play's title are two Shakespearean actors who are so down on their luck that they are performing "Scenes from Shakespeare" on the Moose Lodge circuit in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. When they hear that an old lady in York, Pa., is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long-lost English nieces, they scheme to pass themselves off as the women and get their share of the cash.

Romantic entanglements abound, especially when Leo falls head-over-petticoats in love with the old lady's vivacious niece, Meg, who's engaged to the local minister. Meg knows that there's a big, wide world out there, but it's not until she meets "Maxine and Stephanie" that she finally gets a real taste of it.

Performances of "Leading Ladies" are Nov. 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 at 7:30pm, with Sunday matinees on Nov. 16 and 23 at 2pm.

High school and college students with a current school ID may attend the Nov. 20 show for free while seating is available. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$7 for seniors and

groups of eight or more, and \$5 for students with a valid student ID and children under 13.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at LTCC's bookstore. The box office will be open for ticket sales one hour before all performances.

North Shore film series features Alps

Alpenglow Sports' first installment of the 2014-15 Winter Film Series is Nov. 13 with local hero Dave Nettle at the Olympic Village Lodge.

Now in its ninth year, the series is designed to inspire, motivate and educate. All shows are free and raffle prizes from sponsors are sold to raise funds for local nonprofit organizations. To date, the event has raised more than \$40,000 for the community. Past beneficiaries include the Sierra Avalanche Center, High Fives Foundation, Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue, Disabled Sports Far West, Project Mana, Tahoe Safe Alliance, and many more.

For the kick-off, Nettle will entertain the audience with scintillating images and ski touring tales from Europe's Maurienne Alps. This area is home to some amazing alpine ski mountaineering.

The show will wrap up with an assortment of backcountry ski images ranging from the Vallee Blanche in Chamonix to the Northern Selkirks of British Columbia and back to the Sierra.

The show begins at 7pm. Call Alpenglow Sports at 530.583.6917

with questions.

Wild Sonoma Coast soothes the soul



It's all about the ocean when staying at the Timber Cove Inn. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Susan Wood

JENNER – You know you've encountered something unique and untamed upon walking through the lobby with its high-vaulted ceilings and turning right to gaze beyond the expansive setting to the back patio overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Or, maybe it hits you before you even arrive at the Timber Cove Inn. Driving the wild and scenic Sonoma Coast is transformative in itself. Cows wander freely on Highway 1

north of Jenner, mingling with deer in a perfect harmony between ocean and land.

Harmony is just what a soul gets at this iconic, 49-room rustic resort. The half century-old inn melds being active and doing nothing.

After settling in on one recent fall Wednesday evening to a cocktail, French fries and the National League pennant champs San Francisco Giants on the television in the airy, redwood Sequoia Lounge in front of the large, stone fireplace, Kae and I chose the latter for our first-day itinerary. Doing very little hit the spot.



The lounge area at the inn is relaxing.

In a daze while waiting for the coffee to brew in the room, I stood almost motionless on the patio of the ocean view room as AJ jumped down a few feet to conduct her morning ritual. So many hotels come equipped with borders and railings. The openness was a nice change. No obstacles to inhibit the 180-degree view of the ocean. It was like no other I've had before.

And it's one thing to see this massive body of water. Waking up to the sounds of the pounding surf are quite another thing. The rhythm of the waves sets the stage for the entire stay.

We walked with AJ over the 26 acres of the grounds on the bluffs overlooking the Pacific. There was no bad view on the clearly marked trails divided between the North Coast and the South Coast trails – with Lover's Point and Timber Cove Point jutting out at the midpoint. Waves crashed in over the rocky coastline.

Visible from most of the property is the Bufano Obelisk. The 93-foot sculpture made of tile, concrete and redwood was created by Italian artist Benjamin Bufano as a symbol of world peace.

Peacefulness is the general theme here. Upon each bend in the trail, we often stopped at the benches staged just for spending time to take it all in. Only the sunbathing seals appeared to be lazier than us. The resort gets major points for having several areas to sit and just be. What's striking at the resort is the notion that it's incredibly quiet.

To partake in one of our favorite places to sit, I grabbed a bottle of wine because this is after all Sonoma County – the ultimate Wine Country. We soon learned the Timber Cove Inn's outside fire pit set up just outside the restaurant patio is a big hit. Wednesday night we had checked it out with the provided lantern in the room. Nice touch. On Thursday, wine and reading – and Bananagrams – topped the agenda.

For those who didn't bring their own games, the inn built a bocce ball court off to the side.

Eat, drink and be merry



Alexander's restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Suggested is dinner at the inn's Alexander's restaurant. For starters, the roasted red and yellow beets in the salad melted in my mouth, and the Ricotta cheese provided a perfect accent. And, we loved the sourdough bread.

The Alexander Valley merlot paired well with Kae's polenta lasagna, which looked as good as it tasted. The circle of marinara sauce on the plate was ample enough for every bite of the concoction. The sauce had a definite homemade flavor.

My seafood pasta was more about the catfish, prawns, salmon and halibut than the noodles – which can be a rarity. The dish was tasty and filling. The view at sunset next to the floor-to-ceiling window was stunning.

After dinner, we hit the bar again for the Giants game and formed a kinship with a small community that turned up there in the evening – with couples from Reno to Rohnert Park enjoying the cushy sofas and fireplace. Bands play there on the weekends.

A sense of adventure beckons



An otter along the Russian River.

With the Timber Cove Inn situated 13 miles north of Jenner, the Russian River represents a good outlet for recreation. We rented a canoe for \$60 that we could have had for four hours from Watertreks' kiosk in downtown Jenner on Friday. I appreciate the worker's tips such as the nature of the currents. With AJ in the middle compartment, we paddled the calm and serene estuary that marks the mouth of the river. It's currently closed off at the ocean by sand. On the ocean side that we walked to is where seals bob their heads in the surf when they're not lounging on the beach. We also spotted a river otter near the island dividing the north and south riverfronts.

The canoe trip was a blend of both the natural world and an architectural tour marking a small civilization of gutsy river inhabitants who are known to rebuild when the river floods because they love the environment so much.

I can see why.



AJ isn't sure what to make of the ocean waves.

The Sonoma Coast doles out a rugged yet relaxed type of lifestyle.

Eating up the experience

For an overcast day, the excursion required a quick hot meal – so we opted for soup at the Jenner Inn Café. My salmon chowder was as close to local ingredients as one could have it. I heard the very helpful clerk tell another customer the salmon is pulled from the ocean in the front yard and grilled in the restaurant's back yard. Kae's squash soup was true warmth with flavor. Fresh French fries topped off the meal, with an interesting ginger lemonade concoction mixed in the café.

The sign out front said it all: "Eat, rest, love."

Loving Sonoma County is a state of mind I may never lose.

We quickly turned off on the way back to the inn with wine in mind, yet again. The Fort Ross Vineyard named after the Russian military fort called out to us, so we climbed the very steep grade that led us high on the bluff overlooking the ocean. Think Chardonnay and the ever-so temperamental Pinot Noir that thrives in the fog.



This view never gets old.

With the chill of the weather again, we soon headed to the warmth of our room and cranked up the gas stove awaiting the highlight of the day – massages by Karma Tales' Hannah. (Note of recommendation: set up the head of the table near the slider with the door cracked open to hear a hint of wave action with the new age music.)

It's beyond relaxing.

(Another note: the menu for room service will not fully match that of the Website, so keep that in mind when ordering in.)

On the prowl for fungi and fun

The Sonoma Coast can be a lush playground where the mushrooms dance – especially when it rains. So after a few light storms giving the coast a hint of winter, off we went with the Sonoma County Mycological Association on the next morning. The experience was like no other.



More than 70 kinds of mushrooms were discovered on the foray.

We traversed up and down hills through the dense wilderness of the 6,000-acre Salt Point State Park at Woodside Campground searching for mushrooms like pioneers searching for game. SOMA, the association, hosts these forays throughout the fall and winter. Plus, the group throws a potluck lunch with many offerings afterward.

From food to wine

The Fort Ross Harvest Festival capped off the afternoon with tasting from a dozen local wineries, including the samplings from an artisan cheese maker from Freestone. It was a picture perfect day – filled with activities commemorating the park and the vineyards that surround it.

The event celebrates the bounty of the Sonoma coast as well as the culture of the historic park set over the bluffs one mile south of Timber Cove.

With unparalleled views all its own, the Timber Cove Inn hosted its year-long celebration called “50 and fab.” The resort is old and has a slight weathered look to it to match

its age, but it also has undergone a renovation of about a quarter of its rooms – mostly the forest view variety.

We were in an ocean view room, equipped for a disabled person with the open shower and plenty of space. In the corner of the room is a huge boulder that spills out onto the sidewalk.

The hot tubs have been taken out in the interest of California's drought.

According to General Manager Sharon Lynn, Sonoma County wants to see a master plan for the hotel before further upgrades are made.



Timber Cove Inn – the view from the room.

Don't count on high-end upscale. But with free WiFi and other standard amenities like a small gym, the rooms serve their purpose. It's really all about the view that makes this place special.

Oh, and don't expect cell service. It's non-existent on a huge swath of this coastline. Lynn said there's talk of a tower going in nearby.

"I tell people to come here to unplug," she said. "It is what it is, with all its quirkiness."

Notes:

- Timber Cove Inn is located at 21780 North Coast Highway 1, Jenner.
 - Contact: 707.847.3231 or online.
 - Rooms start at \$229 a night. Low season runs from January to March.
 - Watertreks Jenner: 707.865.2249.
 - Fort Ross Vineyard and Tasting Room: 15725 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner.
 - Sonoma County Mycological Association.
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Thousands help Nevada turn 150



Nevada Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki, who is from Stateline, and his family. Photos/Susan Wood

Thousands of people lined the streets of Carson City to watch the Nevada Day Parade on Nov. 1.

This was no ordinary parade. It was the culmination of a year's worth of partying for the Silver State, which turned 150 on Oct. 31.

Much of its history was represented in floats – including the Virginia City contingent dressed in Old West garb and firing off guns.

Plenty of politicians – current, soon to be termed out and wannabes marched along.

The day started with drizzle and cold temps, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm of those in the parade or those watching.

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– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*