

Tourism forum to focus on international and young travelers

Because tourism is a constantly evolving industry each year, the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority strive to keep the business community up to date on developing trends by hosting an tourism forum.

This year's forum is April 18 from 3:30-6pm in the Cabaret Theater at Harveys in Stateline.

Building off last year's presentations on local demographics, the 2013 Trends in Tourism Forum will cover the international guest along with service philosophies and what these culturally sophisticated visitors expect and demand.

The forum guest speakers are Caroline Beteta, president-CEO of Visit California and board chairwoman of Brand USA, who will speak to international expectations. Beteta is responsible for implementing Visit California's \$50 million marketing plan.

The second guest speaker, Denise Pirrotti-Hummel, will be building on Beteta's presentation to heighten the awareness of the changing visitor – one who is younger, as well as one who is more diverse ethnically and culturally.

After the forum, guests will have the opportunity to mix and mingle at the Cabo Wabo Cantina inside Harveys. The Business After Hours Mixer will take place from 6-8:30pm and will feature appetizers, drinks, raffle prizes and relationship building opportunities.

Tickets to the forum are \$15 for members and \$25 for prospective members and include entrance to the BAHM. Reserve a space in advance online, or email Emily@tahoechamber.org, or

call Emily Abernathy at (775) 588.1728, ext. 303.

No. 1 tenor sax player in state from North Tahoe High

Shasta Tresan, along with freshman John Humphreys, both of North Tahoe High School, received the great distinction of being accepted to play in the California All State Honor Band in Fresno.

They were chosen based on their auditions. Of 1,600 who auditioned, 300 students were chosen to participate with the best of the best in the state.

In Fresno, they auditioned and were picked to play in one of three bands, seated by ability. Tresan earned the honor of playing first chair tenor sax player in the top band at All State Honor Band.

Tresan started playing baritone saxophone in 8th grade. Tresan was accepted into the Honors Performance Series Honor Band, a national honor band that played in New York at Carnegie Hall, playing the bari sax. She just switched to tenor saxophone her junior year.

Recently, Tresan received a large scholarship offer to attend Ithaca College in New York.

Tresan said in a statement, "I'm so excited to see how supportive Truckee and Tahoe are being of my musical achievements. It's truly exhilarating."

Writers group sets April meetings

Tahoe Writers Works, a local writing group, will be hosting writing workshops throughout 2013. The workshops will be at Bona Fide Books, 1069 Magua St., No. 4 in Meyers.

Beginning and established writers are welcome. There is no obligation other than an exceptional love of the written word.

April workshops will be April 2 at 6:30pm, April 16 at 6:30pm, and April 30 at 6:30pm.

Tahoe Writers Works, established in 2006, is a nonprofit organization based in Lake Tahoe and Reno. The group publishes EDGE, an annual literary journal that features provocative fiction, poetry, essays, and art, from artists both local and global. Volume 7 is due for release in 2013. TWW also organizes events to create a stronger literary and arts community, including the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at Valhalla and Celebration of Writers Around the Lake.

For more information about Tahoe Writers Works, go online.

Squaw, Alpine use Green Bucks to help environment

Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows have joined with Tahoe Fund and Truckee River Watershed Council to help launch the Green

Bucks program.

Green Bucks is a dollar donation program designed to harness the passion of visitors and residents in order to help care for the region's environment. Squaw and other local businesses have committed to collecting dollar donations on room nights, season passes, lift tickets, golf rounds and other items to help improve the area's natural environment.

"In conjunction with our company's commitment to the environment, we have made two \$25,000 donations to both the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Tahoe Fund, and we are asking guests to contribute one dollar on the purchase of lodging reservations or a season pass via the new Green Bucks program," said Andy Wirth, president and CEO of Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows.

Proceeds from Green Bucks support the Tahoe Fund, the Truckee River Watershed Council and other public and nonprofit organizations in the region. These organizations fund projects that will improve, enhance and restore watersheds, hiking and biking trails, and environmental stewardship programs.

Green Bucks will support:

- Miles of hiking, biking and ADA-accessible trails
- Access for swimming, kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle boarding
- Open spaces for wildlife habitat and scenic views
- Restoration of rivers, lakes, meadows, wetlands, forests
- Protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- Boating and fishing access
- Landscaping and trail re-alignment to prevent runoff
- Signage and interpretive displays to guide visitors
- Monitoring of water quality.

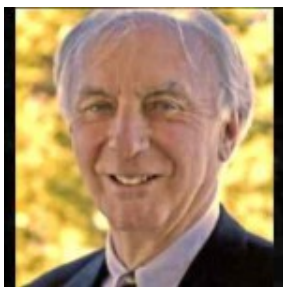
Local businesses may call (530) 550.8760, ext. 7 to sign up to participate in the Green Bucks program.

A tour of county jail can be eye-opening

By Ted Long

I attended the second session of the Citizens Academy on Monday where we were introduced to the county jail and the communications center. For those of you just joining the discussion, I have been accepted as a member of the El Dorado County Sheriff's Citizens Academy, a 16-week program to inform and enlighten county residents of the operation of the sheriffs' department.

This week, as with our last instructors, were very friendly and longtime county employees; average time 25 years. The county jail session lead by Tim McClain and the communication section by Kathy Jacobs, both, as I have said very nice people.



Ted Long

In the communication we heard about the 911 system and the county's emergency number, which should be used for police

emergencies within the county – (530) 626.4911. If you call 911, your call is first sent to the highway patrol in Sacramento then rerouted to the county system. By law your call may only be transferred once to protect you from hang-ups or other technical problems that may be encountered during a failed transfer.

The more interesting discussion was about the changes in the county jail. While the building is not new, it is in fine condition, all concrete and stainless steel and very clean. While it does not extend a particularly strong welcoming feeling, it does look secure, a place where someone could disappear forever if it were used to silence dissent or disagreement, and a good reason to make it available for inspection by the public and organizations such as the grand jury.

The population problem is very large and growing. With the state system under federal control, many serious offenders are now being sent to county jails. It used to be that a one-year term was the maximum. For the county system, now they have prisoners serving as much as 15 years.

McClain told us that while most of the inmates are in for various crimes the real reason is drugs, and the need to raise the money to support their habit. It seems the “war on drugs” has filled our jails. One can only wonder if some drugs were legal, and the crime taken out of them, would we all not be better off? The addicted not subject to the high cost that illegality forces on them, and perhaps more important, the reduction in crime to the rest of us. Sounds a lot like the unexpected consequences of attempts to make alcohol illegal and cure society's woes with laws of the '20s to me. A lot of average people suffering while a lot of criminals got rich.

Everyone should experience the impact of jail. It's one of those areas where we need to remain vigilant, as most have no idea of the possibility and the impact of isolation within

this concrete structure.

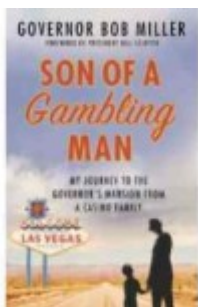
Ted Long is a resident of South Lake Tahoe, former City Council member and has been on the El Dorado County Grand Jury.

Critical view of former governor's book on his Vegas past

By John L. Smith, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Consider it the memoirist's prerogative: He gets to recount his life's events any way he wishes, and readers expect he'll place himself in a sympathetic light.

Whether he flashes a glimpse of stocking or lets it all hang out, the writer of a memoir needn't adhere to the biographer's bibliographical standards or share in the investigative reporter's obsession with documents and law enforcement sources. Like Frank Sinatra with a laptop, the memoirist can recall it his way.



The trouble with a memoir by a longtime public figure, however, is that his recollections of high-profile events might not match the memories of others who experienced those same events. And when those clashing memories concern the quicksilver days of the mob's substantial presence inside the Las Vegas casino racket, the subject matter can be tender, indeed.

Such is the case with former Nevada Gov. Bob Miller's memoir

about growing up in the long shadow of his father, old-school gambling boss Ross Miller, "Son of a Gambling Man: My Journey from a Casino Family to the Governor's Mansion."

With a foreword from former President Bill Clinton and jacket endorsements from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, "America's Most Wanted Host" John Walsh, and business magazine scion Steve Forbes, the book is a neatly packaged inoculation of Miller against the ravages of time and Nevada's tumultuous and tawdry gambling and political history. The gambler's son spends substantial space attempting to come to terms with his father's streetwise stoicism and undeniable notoriety.

As a practical matter, he needn't have bothered. His life's legacy should rise and fall on its own merits. And, frankly, Miller would have been better served if he hadn't opened some of the doors of memory. Other doors easily could have been secured with more thorough editing and a clearer appreciation of the ghosts lurking behind them.

At its best, "Son of a Gambling Man" gives insight into the complex psychology of the offspring of casino men and the sociology of our neon-lighted privileged class. In that regard, it ranks with the late Susan Berman's memoir, "Easy Street: the True Story of a Gangster's Daughter."

Miller tells us his father had been a bookmaker and nightclub operator with some notorious relationships, but he can't quite bring himself to admit his dad was a loyal Chicago Outfit representative whose Las Vegas opportunity was essentially sponsored by hoodlum friends in the Windy City.

Instead, we get a toe in the water. It's almost as if the son of the gambler is still sensitive about his old man's past. Although Ross Miller's memory gets the usual Al Phillips-the-Cleaner treatment – a ringing character endorsement by no less a paragon of ethics than former Sheriff Ralph Lamb – even cursory research reveals a side of the gambling man that made

him look very much like a mobbed-up casino overseer.

In addition to beating a casino skimming investigation that took down his peers, Ross Miller had a decidedly old-school approach to addressing dealers suspected of stealing. In January 1963, he punched a Riviera dice dealer in the mouth and ordered his hotel goons to drag him into a backroom, where he was terrorized. (The dealer sued and in 1965 won a settlement.) In that same incident, the *Review-Journal* reported, Miller ordered security to take the dealer's suspected accomplice out behind the hotel and "break his arm."

Memoirist Bob Miller, of course, needn't recall that anecdote. Certainly no one could blame him for wanting to forget something that made the newspapers when he was a high school kid.

More problematic are his depictions of the relationships with his father's green-felt protégé, convicted mob casino skimmer Carl Thomas, and family friend Allen Dorfman, the consummately organized crime-connected Teamsters Central States Pension Fund and Las Vegas casino insider.

Bob Miller admits writing a post-conviction letter to a sentencing federal judge on behalf of Thomas, in connection with skimming on behalf of the Kansas City and Chicago mobs at the Tropicana.

Invoking William Faulkner, Miller eloquently observes, "The past, they say, is never really past. And after I became district attorney, my past – or should I say Ross Miller's past – became the present."

He goes on to recount how, against the advice of political adviser Billy Vassiliadis (to whom he dedicates his book), Miller decided to write the letter in July 1983 to U.S. District Judge Joseph E. Stevens that attempted to show Thomas in a sympathetic light.

Miller then focuses on how a political challenger later attempted to make campaign hay of the letter. What he fails to admit is that the letter was a huge embarrassment to the community and to the office of the district attorney, the county's top prosecutor.

It was inappropriate, but unsurprising. In Nevada politics, friendship almost always trumps duty.

Equally incomplete is Miller's treatment of Dorfman. Miller acknowledges that Dorfman was a family friend, and on a wiretap uttered some embarrassing statements about their relationship, but he doesn't finish the story.

The reader is left to ask, "Hey, whatever became of Allen Dorfman?"

The felon was considered such a key player in the mob's presence in Las Vegas that the FBI devoted a team to taking him down. With wiretaps, undercover agents and confidential informants, the government was pressuring Dorfman to cooperate.

On Jan. 20, 1983, just a few months before DA Miller penned his apology on behalf of Thomas, Dorfman pulled into the parking lot of the Hyatt Hotel in the northwestern Chicago suburb of Lincolnwood and exited his Cadillac. Investigative reporter James Neff writes in his meticulously researched book "Mobbed Up:" "Eight rounds from a silencer-equipped .22-caliber semiautomatic handgun struck Dorfman in the head at close range. Allen Dorfman had just kept thirty years of Mob secrets the hard way."

So that's why Dorfman doesn't write, doesn't call.

How close was Dorfman to the Miller family?

"Dorfman himself was a secret owner with Chicago gangster Ross Miller of the Bingo Palace, while Miller's district attorney

son held stock in a blind trust in the casino, (Teamsters boss and FBI informant Jackie) Presser said," wrote Sally Denton and Roger Morris in their best-selling Las Vegas exposé, "The Money and the Power."

The memoirist can remember as much or as little as he wishes, and owes no one an excuse for the sins of his father. But "Son of a Gambling Man" is a reminder that when you open those creaking doors of Las Vegas past, there's no telling what ghosts will come swirling out.

Bob Miller outgrew his father's shadow long ago, but after reading his memoir I'm still not sure our state's celebrated son of a gambling man believes it.

Poet to give talk in Incline

Laura McCollough is the author of four books of poetry. Her fifth book "Rigger Death & Hoist Another" is forthcoming from Lawrence Press.

She founded the Creative Writing program and Visiting Writers series at Brookdale Community College.

McCollough will give a free public reading March 29 from 7-9pm in TCES, room 139-141, on the Sierra Nevada College campus in Incline Village as part of the Writers in the Woods Series.

McCollough will also conduct a writing workshop (free to SNC students; \$50 for community members) from 9am-noon on March 30. [Click here](#) to register for the workshop.

Lecture about Living in Abundance

Living in Abundance is the title of a talk to be given by international speaker Evan Mehlenbacher on May 13 at 7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College – 1 College Way, South Lake Tahoe.



Evan
Mehlenbacher

Mehlenbacher is in the public healing practice as a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science. He is a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship. Mehlenbacher says his experience in the family farming business after graduating from Stanford University helped him see abundance in a new way. Mehlenbacher left the business and went into the full-time ministry of helping others find spiritual healing.

Mehlenbacher's ideas are based on the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Bible.

This free public lecture is presented by First Church of Christ, Scientist – South Lake Tahoe.

Movie delves into bullying crisis in U.S.

From Sundance Award-winning filmmaker Lee Hirsch comes a cinematic, character-driven documentary following five kids and families over the course of a school year. Offering insight into different facets of America's bullying crisis, the stories include two families who have lost children to suicide and a mother awaiting the fate of her 14-year-old daughter, who has been incarcerated after bringing a gun on her school bus.

With an intimate and often shocking glimpse into homes, classrooms, cafeterias and principals' offices, "Bully" is a powerful and inspiring film.

Presented by Sierra Nevada College Teacher Education, the free screening of "Bully" will take place March 27 from 7-9pm in Sierra Nevada College's Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences (TCES), room 139-141, 999 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets

in South Lake Tahoe



Julie is a young Jack Russell Terrier mix, perhaps 1 year old. She has wiry fur and a cute underbite like many little terriers. She loves to go for walks.

Julie is friendly with other dogs, is very affectionate, and would make a great pet for just about any household.

Julie is spayed, microchipped, 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 online to see photos and description 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