SNC Concert Choir to perform in December

The Sierra Nevada College Concert Choir translates the spirit of the season into music Dec. 2 and Dec. 4 at 7pm at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Incline Village.

Forty voices will perform Puccini's Gloria (messa di Gloria). Puccini's lyrical melodies and emotionally moving scoring shine brightly in this composition.

Under the direction of Donna Axton, music program chair at SNC, the combined college and community choir will feature solos by two well-known singers – tenor Kevin Beiswenger and baritone David Pierce.

The concert's second section features Ray Linn's music and overflows with traditional seasonal carols and songs –including several familiar sing-along selections.

SNC student spotlights include Lauren Upton, Yesenia Ruelas, Valerie McIntyre, Momoko Nishiyama, Danielle Flores and Jill Colbert.

Eunice Marion's "Incline Choraliers" will be special guests, and Claire Roberts, Josii Johnson, and Kestral Sura will add to the fun. The orchestra for this performance relies on the talent of Katie Lauder (piano), Ben Wallek (bass), Toni Healey (flute), Darrell Moore (clarinet), Ben Benjamin (bassoon), Bruce Kanzelmeyer (horn), Virginia Bowman and Liz Glattly (violin).

Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door, $10 all students and seniors. The are available in Incline at the Potlatch, Artists of Tahoe (in the Village Center), or the SNC bookstore; and in Tahoe City at Pablo's Gallery.

For more information on the concert, call (775) 881.7586 or email daxton@sierranevada.edu.

Holiday faire creates festive mood

By Kathryn Reed

CAMP RICHARDSON – A crackling fire in the oversized fireplace, holiday songs being song by youngsters, the smell of mulled wine – oh, and all those handmade crafts and jewelry.

It had to be the annual Valhalla Holiday Faire at the Grand Hall. This South Shore tradition continues today from 10am-5pm. The Tahoe Intermediate Honor Choir will sing at 2pm.



The Valhalla Holiday Faire continues Nov. 22. Photos/Kathryn Reed

On Saturday it was students from Sierra House and Tahoe Valley Elementary schools singing carols in the morning, and in the afternoon were voices from the Environmental Magnet School,

Bijou and St. Theresa.

Jan Carpenter was busy bundling up bars of soap she and husband Dave created. Honey citrus and lavender were the top sellers for the Tahoe Mountain Soap Company on Nov. 20.

Author Todd Borg didn’t know how busy the event would be so he brought his laptop to be able to work on book No. 9.

“I couldn’t be happier than making up stories for a living,” Borg said.

The Tahoe Tallac Association, which puts on the event, decided to make this a two-day event this year instead of three because the Friday night gathering is not always well attended.

Executive Director Lori Cramer said a steady stream of people filtered in and out of the old building to buy holiday items. It’s free to browse or listen to the choir.

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In The Mood benefits Tahoe Forest Cancer Center

Action snowsport photography and video from around the world highlight the 15th annual In The Mood, a free benefit event for the Tahoe Forest Cancer Center on Dec. 1 at 6pm at Resort at Squaw Creek.

The evening’s program will showcase the talents of the biggest names in adventure photography, video, and filmmaking including acclaimed filmmakers Scott Gaffney, Tom Day, Mike

and Dave Hatchett, and Brad Holmes. Nationally recognized photographers include Keoki Flagg, Dave Norehad, Court Leve and Hank deVre.

A highlight of this year's event is a tribute to the event's co-founder, Robert "Fro" Frohlich, who passed away in October after a long fight with cancer.

A huge raffle with hundreds of prizes is a focal point of the night's festivities. Grand prizes include a Squaw Valley adult season pass, heli-ski trips, gear and more. Other prizes include local resort day tickets, snowcat and heli-skiing adventures, ski and snowboard equipment, lodging packages, gift certificates and hard and soft outdoor retail items.

Raffle tickets may be purchased at the door before and throughout the event. All proceeds benefit the Tahoe Forest Cancer Center and the Truckee Community Christmas program.

Led by Medical Director Laurence Heifetz, the Tahoe Forest Cancer Center, located in Truckee, is committed to providing the highest quality cancer treatment and care to patients. The center strives to offer the most appropriate and current cancer diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in an honest, supportive, respectful and compassionate manner. The center is associated with the UC Davis Health System and the Tahoe Forest Hospital Foundation charitable organization.

As it was for the first In The Mood 15 year's ago, guests are encouraged to donate a can of food at the door to support Truckee Community Christmas Inc., a nonprofit association that feeds the less fortunate over the holidays.

All ages are welcome. There is no admission charge. The doors open at 6pm and the show begins shortly thereafter. A no-host bar will be available.

The evening is co-emceed by local TV personalities Todd Offenbacher and Eric T. Brandt. The Resort at Squaw Creek will

host a post-event party beginning at 9pm in Sandy's Pub.

In The Mood is a Snowtribe Production. The event is supported by numerous partners and contributors including the Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley USA, Points North Heli Adventures Inc., Pacific Crest Heli Guides, Tahoe Dave's Skis and Boards, Snowbomb.com, Tahoe TV, and Swank Audio/Visual.

In the spirit of a free community event, In The Mood is supported and produced entirely by volunteers and the generosity of local and regional businesses and merchants. Raffle prize donations are welcomed.

For more information about the event, contact Eric Brandt at (530) 583.4206 or eric@tahoetv.com. For raffle donations, contact Meg deVre at (530) 525.6281.

Tahoe projects win contractors awards

By Jason Hildago, Reno Gazette-Journal

The Nevada Chapter of the Associated General Contractors recognized the area's best work Friday at its 12th Annual PINNACLE Awards.

Q&D Construction, Inc. garnered the most awards overall among general contractors. Martin Iron Works swept both awards in the specialty contractors category.

Established in 1999, the PINNACLE Awards recognize construction leadership, excellence and community leadership. The awards were held at the Harrah's Convention Center in downtown Reno.

Read the whole story

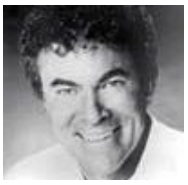
Breck Hall, entertainer with roots in Tahoe, dies

Publisher's note: ***This is from John Packer, entertainment director for Harrah's Northern Nevada, "Breck Wall was a show producer and comedy performer who brought his show 'Bottoms Up' to Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Reno beginning in the 1960s. It returned numerous times in several incarnations during the '70s, '80s and into the '90s. Breck and his partner Patrick Maes also produced adult revues that played Harrah's, Harveys, the High Sierra [now Horizon] and elsewhere, the most successful of which was 'Passion.' 'Bottoms Up' was his signature show in which he starred for many decades. Very funny, silly at times, and risque to say the least."***

By Mark Anthony, Las Vegas Tourist

It was a simple passing in the news on Monday that Breck Wall had died at the age of 75. If the name rings a bell, then you are really a Vegas fanatic.

Breck Wall is best known around Las Vegas for his 40 years of the comic revue "Bottoms Up." I first caught the act when we moved here in 2001. The campy, vaudeville style burlesque show was playing at the Flamingo. The last incarnation of it was at the Harmon in 2007.



Breck Wall

The show was cute and corny in its own weird. Vaudeville done Vegas style. Breck was the ringmaster of a group of aged actors trying to be sexy, funny and shocking. There was nothing really shocking or sexy by today's standards, and that's what gave it its new humor. But they gave it their best shot every afternoon. One could only imagine the real shock value of the show some 20 years ago. Maybe half the fun of the show was watching senior citizens trying to be shocking, sexy and funny. Either way, it was a Vegas institution.

Between that first show and the the last incarnation, I had gotten to know Breck from a distance. It seemed like he knew anyone who was anybody in the entertainment business. If there was any entertainment news or tid-bit somebody needed to know, it was Breck who could probably fill in the details.

Read the whole story

Tahoe drummer creates book for youngsters

By Susan Skorupa, Reno Gazette-Journal

A six-armed goddess and a tiger with wings are out to save the world.

With the help of the rhythm generated by the goddess Durga on her many drums and with the speed and fluidity of the tiger Cyrus' flying abilities, Mother Earth has a chance for peace, harmony, survival and safety in "Adventures of Durga: Messenger of the Drum" (Drumchik Productions, $16 paperback).



Brosco
e

Lake Tahoe drummer and writer Liz Broscoe wrote the book for elementary school-age children as a way to open up her love of West African, Afro-Cuban and other types of drumming and rhythm, and to address childhood issues such as self-esteem and cultural and community issues.

Broscoe got the idea for the book five or six years ago, but it was only two years ago that she knuckled down to get it written, writing every day for a year and working with an editor.

“I was going to do a show called ‘Drumchiks’ and have other female drummers come in and tell a story,” Broscoe said.

Read the whole story

Iraq War vet brings life to conflict through poetry

By Stephen Ward

During his 2003 tour in Iraq, Brian Turner’s humanity was confined within the white-and-blue lines of his college-ruled notebooks. His journal entries served as an intermediary; they were all that separated surges of poetry from diagrams for ambush.



“The poems were more for capturing the moment,” he said, taking long pauses as he recounted the environment in which the works were produced. “They were mostly internal to start. … It’s hard to think of freedom and democracy when you’re worried about walking across the street.”

Turner, who served in the U.S. Army for seven years, has won numerous awards writing about his experience as an infantry team leader in the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team in the Iraq War. He received the 2007 Poets’ Prize for his work “Here, Bullet,” a collection of poetry that surveys the tensions of an American soldier – from the boredom of service to the frailty of human life.

The 43-year-old author described a bittersweet relationship with the accolades he has received.

“For the poems I’ve written, people have had to die,” he explained.

This notion comes as no surprise to those who have read his work. In perhaps one of the most abrasive poems in his assortment “Here, Bullet,” Turner describes the suicide of a fellow soldier in the poem “Eulogy”:

The sound reverberates down concertina coils

the way piano wire thrums when given slack.

And it happens like this, on a blue day of sun,

when Private Miller pulls the trigger

to take brass and fire into his mouth:

the sound lifts the birds up off the water,

a mongoose pauses under the orange trees,

and nothing can stop it now, no matter what.

Life after war

In his new ensemble, “Phantom Noise,” Turner’s impressions of war remain a starring role in the work, despite inclinations to stop writing about the topic.

“To be honest, I tried not to write it,” he said. “There are so many other things to deal with in life … but I had to.”

The new catalog is more politically driven than its predecessor, Turner said.

“The morale of the soldiers, at least while I was there, mirrored the debate in America,” he added.

Turner strives to allow people access back into the war through his art. He referred to the lack of overarching war lines and the vagaries that succeed war as points missed when looking at war stories, citing “Platoon” and “Saving Private Ryan.”

One postwar hardship he faced was finding a job.

“In a lot of academic circles, it looks like there’s a seven-year gap in my resume,” he said, referring to his time served in the military.

Despite the supposed gap, the poet has an extensive history of teaching. After receiving his master’s in fine arts from the University of Oregon, Turner taught English in South Korea and trained soldiers while serving in the Iraq War. This fall, Turner began teaching English classes in general writing and poetry at Sierra Nevada College.

Since he accepted the job and moved to Incline Village, Turner has felt at home.

“I really enjoy it here,” he said. “It’s one of the jewels of

America. The campus is beautiful.”

Meeting the author

Starting today, Turner will share his insight with the community in a two-day event at SNC. The function will include readings from his arsenal of texts and a poetry workshop.

When asked about the event, Turner said he was excited to share his voice with the community.

“I’m looking forward to it,” he said. “I don’t stress my own writing. I also like that it’s open to the community. I get to meet people in other jobs that are poets as well.”

The Friday reading is from 7-9pm in the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences and is open to the public and students. The poetry workshop on Saturday has a $50 registration fee and spans from 9am-noon. Both events are a part of SNC’s Writers in the Woods Literary Speakers Series. A book signing will follow the reading tonight.

Demand calls for second showing of ‘Race to Nowhere’

Educators, administrators, parents, and college students packed two rooms in the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences at Sierra Nevada College on Nov. 4 for a screening of the educational documentary “Race to Nowhere”.

In response to public demand, “Race to Nowhere” will be screened again Dec. 2 at 7pm at Sierra Nevada College, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, Room 106.

The film highlights the mounting pressures and stresses children experience – from elementary school through high school – in an effort to gain admission to top colleges.

“Race to Nowhere” was the first presentation of the 2010-11 “Discussions on Education Series” co-sponsored by the Teacher Education Department at Sierra Nevada College and the Lake Tahoe School. More than 140 people attended the event from around the Lake Tahoe Basin including Incline Village, Truckee, Tahoe City, and South Lake Tahoe.

The ongoing discussion series will explore the American school system from provocative, at times opposing, perspectives with the intent to create positive dialogue about the challenges facing education reform in the U.S. and local communities.

All events in the series are free and open to the public but please register your attendance at http://rtnsierranevada.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact Katrina Midgley at (775) 831.1314, ext. 7517, kmidgley@sierranevada.edu, or Mary Danahey at marydanahey@gmail.com.

North Tahoe leadership program seeks applicants

The North Lake Tahoe-Truckee Leadership Program, embarking on its eighth year, is accepting applications for the 2011 program. This program creates an opportunity for potential leaders to broaden their understanding of the region and its issues, challenges and opportunities, while developing and honing their leadership skills.

Since 2003, the program has graduated more than 165 individuals.

Again, the workshops will be led by Shannon Beets, vice president for Institutional Effectiveness and Compliance and Associate Provost at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village. Each workshop is integrated with one-half of the time spent on regional issues such as special districts, planning, and nonprofit advocacy; and one-half on leadership skill development such as collaboration, team basics, and negotiation.

The program begins in January and ends with a May graduation and consists of five sessions, with two optional days where participants will be “out in the field” getting a close-up view of issues and challenges facing our community and how various agencies work.

Businesses can help support the program with a one-day sponsorship for $500.

Information about the program, sponsorships, and applications can be found on www.TahoeTruckeeLeadership.com. The tuition fee for the Leadership Program is $750; $500 for nonprofit agencies, and covers all expenses of the program including meals and supplies. Partial scholarships are available. Deadline for applications is Dec. 10th and space is limited.

For more information, contact Lynn Saunders at the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce at (530) 587.8808 or email lynn@truckee.com; or Cheri Sprenger at the North Tahoe Business Association at (530) 546-9000 or e-mail cheri@northtahoebusiness.org; or Kym Fabel at the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce at (530) 581.8764 or email kym@puretahoenorth.com.

Darkness of ‘Harry Potter’ No. 7 illuminates big screen



‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’

Rated PG-13

4 bagels out of 5

By Howie Nave

It dawned on me a few days ago that an entire generation has grown up experiencing the Harry Potter series on the big screen. For those who started reading the books first it must have been an eager anticipation waiting to see if their imagination from the popular books would mirror (hopefully) the imagery captured from one’s mind.

What’s also amazing is that the filmmakers were able to keep Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter), Rupert Grint (Ron Weasley) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger) together to make this a truly amazing franchise ride. To think we’ve seen them literally grow up before our eyes in the theater makes it that much harder to say goodbye. Of course all of them are now very well off and probably don’t have to ever do another movie again. Yet, I will say this though – the filmmakers and all

involved have truly saved the best for last.

Part 1 of “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” brings the seventh and final book in the J.K. Rowling series to an end. (Part 2 will open July 15, so we’ll still have something to look forward to). It opened in theaters at midnight.

I was taken aback at how much the cast had aged into young adults and also how dark this movie was. In fact, the Minister of Magic proclaims that, “These are dark times. There’s no denying it.” Boy is he correct.



Daniel Radcliffe's Harry Potter gets ready to cast a spell on theater-goers.

And the friendship between our three principle wizards will be tested. Harry has been marked for death and the stress on them shows. Unlike past Potter movies there isn’t any time for clowning around or participating in Quidditch matches, oh no. It’s one thing when a fellow student attacks you because generally you’re both at the same experience level in wizardry, but when an adult wizard makes you a target, it’s more than a little unnerving.

Lord Voldemort is a sinister adversary and has more experience as a wizard, plus some powerful allies. He’s after the Elder Wand which is one of three Deathly Hallows that allow the

bearer to conquer death. So the stakes are high this time out and he certainly has no problem eliminating Potter and his friends. For those who are loyal book readers you already know the battle and its outcome between Potter and Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), but for those of us who haven't read the final chapter, but have only experienced the franchise on-screen it gets intense. Really intense.

I can't even tell you how many times when I see a dark formation of clouds I'm wondering if Voldemort's Death Eaters have been sent my way. The cast (as always) is solid with stand-out performances that include Bill Nighy (Scrimgeour), Rhys Ifans (Lovegood), Helena Bonham Carter (Bellatrix) and two of my favs, Robbie Coltrane as Hagrid and Alan Rickman as Professor Snape.



Director David Yates will be the final one to close the entire franchise and at first I was somewhat concerned. I mean, I would have thought Chris Columbus would have been brought back to bring everything full circle as he directed the first two, setting the table, so to speak. Now after seeing Yates' work it makes sense. He directed 2007's "Harry Potter and the Order of The Phoenix" and 2009's "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" where the franchise had turned much more serious by then. Yates is definitely the one to conclude the final chapter (or in this case, chapters with part 2 being the finale next year).

Yates is brilliant at making you feel uncomfortable and not just because of Harry's enemies, but the location scenes. Much of the story is not only set in the dark, but the somewhat safe haven of Hogwarts is not nearby, leaving Harry, Ron and Hermione very much out in the open. It's a strange feeling, trust me. And even though the movie has been given a PG-13 rating, there are plenty of scenes that may be too intense for the younger sect, so parents be forewarned. Fans of book and

movies will not be disappointed.

“Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1” is rated PG-13 for some sequences of intense action violence, frightening images and brief sensuality with a running time of 145 minutes.

Howie Nave is host/emcee/manager of The Improv at Harveys. You can hear him Monday-Friday 6 to 10am on KRLT FM-93.9.