

Warren Miller gets his groove back

Publisher's note: *To find out where Warren Miller's film will be shown in Nevada (which includes Lake Tahoe locations), [click here](#). To find out where the film will be in California, [click here](#).*

John Shevchuk, Daily Campus

The Bushnell was pushed to capacity at six o'clock Saturday night with skiers and snowboarders alike. A typical snowless November in Connecticut kept the crowd more than anxious as it has been at least six months since the end of last season. But the lack of snow did not keep Warren Miller Entertainment from building up the winter mood.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of Warren Miller Entertainment and its annual ski film. Each year, Warren Miller Entertainment travels across the nation to a select number of theaters to show its films to the most avid skiing fans to ease their skiing withdrawal symptoms. This year's "Dynasty" is being presented in multiple showings at 85 venues, ranging from Maine to Arizona and even Alaska. The company produces an original film each year, bringing its professional skiers and snowboarders to some of the most remote and picturesque locations in the world. Last year's "Children of Winter" incorporated some unique skiing opportunities. But, that film did not meet the high expectations typically achieved by the Miller productions. "Dynasty" covered the usual beauty of places such as Lake Tahoe and Mt. Rainier. It also showed an alligator snowboarding and a school bus fish tailing, it's fair to say Warren Miller is back on track.

Read the whole story

Fireplaces increase ambiance in ski country

Publisher's note: *This is an excerpt from a longer story about fireplaces in Western ski towns.*

At California's North Lake Tahoe is a historic fireplace handcrafted in the 1940s by Wayne Poulsen, who founded the Squaw Valley USA ski resort after World War II.

"Wayne and his wife built the European-style fireplace by hand for what originally was their house. They did it with individual rocks they collected from the hills around the valley. Now it's a major floor-to-ceiling attraction in the lobby of my Graham's Restaurant," said owner Graham Rock (www.dinewine.com).

"The restaurant is only a half-mile from Squaw Valley's base lifts and site of the 1960 Winter Olympic Games," he adds. "Our main dining room has an even bigger wood-burning fireplace where diners strive to reserve a table that faces the hearth."

A Swiss-born family owns Tahoe House Bakery just south of Tahoe City, where skiers gather morning and afternoon to feast on European-style pastries such as apple strudel. On cold days, they move closer to the bakery's 40-year-old, double-sided rock fireplace to get warm while also consuming gourmet delights and brewed-to-order coffee.

Read the whole story

Paralympian is all about “No Limits”

Maggie O’Neill, Reno Gazette-Journal

When Paralympian Mark Wellman, 49, answers his phone in Truckee, he picks it up with two short words: “No Limits.”

That’s the name of the motivational business he started in 1991, but also a brief summation on his attitude on living.

Read the whole story

Geology is focus of lecture

Eldridge Moores, with the UC Davis Department of Geology, will speak Dec. 9 about Assembling California and Western Nevada: Point Reyes to Lake Tahoe.

The landscapes of California and western Nevada have a long and storied past including plate movements, granitic intrusions, volcanism, and collisions of island arcs and continental fragments with the western US over the past 250 million years. The rocks and structures that we see at the surface and at depth record this history. Rocks are historical archives. One can read these archives of Earth history if one knows the language. The language is geology.

Major challenges in the 21st century, including climate change, energy, resources, water, and earth hazards, deeply

involve geology. To function as an informed citizen, everyone needs knowledge of geology.

Eldridge Moores Biography:

Eldridge Moores is Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the UC Davis Geology Department, where he has been a faculty member since 1966. His specialty is Structural Geology and Tectonics, with special emphasis on the Alpine-Himalayan and western North American mountain systems. He has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific and general interest publications, including several books, and he has mentored hundreds of students. The famous American writer John McPhee prominently features Moores in the books "Assembling California" and "Annals of the Former World". He and his wife Judy regularly give geology/landscape field trips for non-specialists.

Specifics:

Date: Dec. 9

Time: 5:30-7:30pm. Lecture begins promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5 donation requested. No-host gar.

Location: Assembly Rooms 139 & 141, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, on the campus of Sierra Nevada College.

\$5,000 found on city street

By Kathryn Reed

A few drivers might be regretting dodging the small suitcase

in the middle of Tahoe Keys Boulevard the other morning.

South Tahoe public works crews saw it and knew to remove the obstacle. What they didn't know is inside was \$5,000 in two bundles of one hundred dollar bills.

Before retrieving it near the corner of Highway 50, Walt Schild and Aaron Schmalenberger joked there may be money inside the bag. Unzipping it to find a name of who it might belong to revealed the cash and clothes.

The crew drove to the job site, called the cops, and then took everything to the police station.

The out of town couple who the bag of money belonged to was at the station about 8:50am Monday when the city crew arrived. Officers verified the goods belonged to the couple.

"We met the people. They were nervous," Schild said.

Why they were carrying so much cash is not known.

Schild said he's found a few wallets with cash through the years, but nothing like the find this week.

"I turn them in and people look at you like you're nuts," Schild said.

Greenberg brings radio show to Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE — "My mantra is if it's in a brochure, I don't want to know about it."

Travel guru Peter Greenberg is not going to endear himself to tourism executives with that sentiment â€” and heâ€™s fine with that. He is all about giving listeners of his weekly worldwide radio show what they want. And that is the truth.



Todd
Offenbacher,
left, tapes a
segment for
Peter
Greenberg's
Nov. 28 radio
show.
Photo/Lake
Tahoe Visitors
Authority

Greenberg taped his show at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course on Wednesday afternoon. He has been coming to Tahoe for 30 years, but this is the first broadcast from the basin.

He has a couple rules about his show â€” no heads of chambers of commerce, no visitor or convention center chief, no one who is selling anything.

â€œMy audience knows better,â€ Greenberg told *Lake Tahoe News* after he wrapped up his show as the sun was setting over Lake Tahoe.

Greenberg interviewed five locals with different stories, though all fairly well known throughout the South Shore.

Terri Marceron – supervisor of the U.S. Forest Service office that regulates the entire Lake Tahoe Basin. Todd Offenbacher – Resort Sports Network host and founder of Tahoe Adventure Film Festival. Dave Borges – local chiropractor and historian. Curtis Fong – “the guy from Tahoe” and coordinator of two major cycling events around the lake. Allen Biagi – chairman of Tahoe Regional Planning Agency’s Governing Board.

In two hours, the five told their stories. The show will air the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend (Nov. 28). To find a station that carries it, log on to www.petergreenberg.com.

Greenberg is all about asking locals what they like. That’s how he finds authenticity in a location “not those brochures in hotel lobbies.

“My job is not to promote you. It is to give the audience choices,” Greenberg said.

Greenberg isn’t your average travel journalist who writes happy stories because he’s gotten a freebie. He’s a veteran of the news business, having worked for publications like *Newsweek*. He is the travel editor for CBS News and does regular segments on “The Early Show”.

The 36 hours he spent on the South Shore (he left this morning) don’t seem like a whirlwind to him. Deadlines are in his blood. He knows how to get a story, churn it out and move on to the next one.

This travel show of his takes him to all corners of the world. It’s not a vacation for him “it’s work.

His vacation time comes in six-month increments each year when he returns to Fire Island, N.Y., where he is a firefighter. It’s a job he’s had since he was 18.

Greenberg’s theory on all resort communities is, “You know why someone comes here, so why mess with it.”

Authors subject of Nevada Women's History Project

By Susan Skorupa, Reno Gazette-Journal

Right from the beginning, women have made history in Nevada.

The Nevada Women's History Project, which works to highlight the stories of those women of the Silver State, holds its annual authors luncheon on Saturday to raise money to continue its mission.

Mysteries for All Ages is the project's gathering of some 30 local authors and their books with a couple of nationally known keynote speakers, plus lunch, book-buying opportunities and a lively question-and-answer session between the writers and local television weatherman Dave Finley.

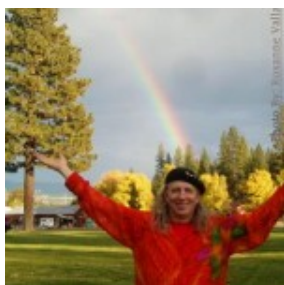
Read the whole story

Harmonica player's death leaves void for Tahoe fans

By Denise Sloan Smart

I first fell in love with Norton Buffalo in the summer of 1977. The room was dark, save for a few twinkling lights coming from the radio station's control board.

It was about 2am and it was just me and Norton's first album, "Lovin' in the Valley of the Moon," from Capitol Records.



Norton Buffalo

We "Norton's music and I – were on the second floor of Harrah's Lake Tahoe, from where KOWL radio station broadcast for several decades. I was one of a few female disc jockeys back then. When the station owners were tucked into bed late at night, we DJs would expand the standard "play list" and throw in some new artists " like Norton Buffalo.

Oh, my heart sang to his searing, superb harmonica. And that voice, oh, that voice.

That voice is now silent " except for his recordings. Buffalo died last week at a hospital in Paradise. He had been diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this fall. He was 58.

Born in Oakland into a musical family – his father, a harmonica player, and his mother a vocalist in nightclubs in San Francisco in the early 1940s – he had big shoes to fill and he did so magnificently.

"Norton Buffalo only played (at Harrah's) a couple times in the early ~80s in the Stateline Cabaret," recalled John Packer, spokesman for the Tahoe casino. "I personally have seen him a number of times with the Steve Miller Band and with Roy Rogers.

"Obviously, this is a great loss to the Blues community and

to the brotherhood and sisterhood of harmonica players," Packer said. "He was one of a kind, a very unique player and a really nice guy. He was always really friendly – of course most Blues people are."

Buffalo was regarded as one of the most versatile and talented harmonica players in the music business. Having performed and recorded across nearly every style of music, he became widely acclaimed as the finest multigenre harmonica player of all time.

His recordings, going back to his first releases on Capitol in 1977 and '78 all received great reviews, are revered by his fans, and are a must in every harmonica player's collection. While his talents on the harmonica were the major parts of his success, Norton was known as a strong and soulful vocalist – Steve Miller introduced him each night as his "Partner in Harmony" – and is well regarded as a notable songwriter, engineer and producer.

For the last 34 years, Buffalo was a highly celebrated member of the Steve Miller Band, recorded and toured with some of the top names in music, worked in movies and television, and stayed busy performing and recording with his many diverse musical ventures.

Buffalo was highly sought after as a recording artist, having played on more than 180 albums by artists as diverse as Bonnie Raitt, Kenny Loggins, The Doobie Brothers, The Marshall Tucker Band, Johnny Cash, Kate Wolf, Commander Cody And His Lost Planet Airmen, David Grisman, Juice Newton, Laurie Lewis and Elvin Bishop.

Buffalo was nominated for two Grammys and was part of the Doobie Brothers Grammy award-winning album "Minute By Minute."

Norton is also featured on Kenny Loggins new children's album that was released last spring.

He performed in the Lake Tahoe area from the late 1980s to the early 2000s, primarily on the North Shore and in Reno and was best appreciated at his outdoor concerts such as those at the Lake Tahoe Music Festival and at Northstar.

In the 1990s, this reporter “ who first fell in love with his music in 1977 “ had numerous opportunities to interview the musician prior to his Lake Tahoe performances and he was always a joy to speak with. That was when I was editor of *Action* magazine at the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

He always spoke of his love of performing, songwriting and collaborating with other musicians, which he felt brought out the best creativity in everyone involved.

I’d remind him that I still had his first two albums on vinyl (33 1/3) and he politely laughed, with delight. I never did have the nerve to tell him that “we were in love” from back in my radio days, when he first hit the airwaves.

Norton Buffalo was one of those musicians who should have been in the showrooms – not the cabarets, but mainstream audiences wouldn’t have “gotten it.” He was above their Saltine tastes. His music was caviar.

John Packer expects Mick Martin, who has a Blues party every Saturday from 1-5pm on (NPR) Capitol Public Radio, to do a tribute to Buffalo Norton this weekend.

Denise Sloan has covered the Lake Tahoe entertainment scene since the 1970s.

10-year-old who helps kids earns national award

Ashlee Smith's efforts to help young victims of the 2007 Angora Fire are being recognized on the national level.

The 10-year-old from Reno will be in New York on Thursday to receive an award from the nonprofit World of Children.

She will be on "The Early Show" Wednesday morning.

Smith collects toys and books not just for Tahoe kids, but for youths involved in other disasters. Her family lost their home in a fire when she was 6.

Reports say Smith wants to use the \$15,000 grant she will receive this week as seed money to look for matching dollars so she can expand her nonprofit Ashlee's Toy Closet.

Students to honor vets with music

Nearly 250 students from the South Tahoe middle and high schools bands, orchestras, choirs and NJROTC will perform a concert on Nov. 9 at South Tahoe Middle School's multipurpose room.

The free concert is from 7-8pm.

The program is listed below and will include familiar patriotic music and songs that will pay tribute to our veterans and active military personnel.

Attending guests will be recognized with pins, a VIP seating section and a special musical tribute of service songs ("Armed Forces On Parade") to which they will stand and be honored by Lake Tahoe Unified music students.

The audience and students will be provided an opportunity to write a postcard note to our troops overseas and music students will be thanking those vets in attendance with a personal note in the days after the concert.

A brief reception will be provided by parents after the concert.

Program:

Presentation of the Colors

Welcome/ Pledge of Allegiance

"Star Spangled Banner" – Combined Groups

"Bells! (Fanfare)" – Bands

"March Bits and Pieces" – Bands

"Shenandoah" – Blue Ribbon Choir

"Honor and Glory" – Orchestras

"Into the Sky" – Orchestras

"Armed Forces On Parade" – Bands and Choirs

"America Proud" – STMS and Blue Ribbon Choirs

"Espana March" – HS and MS Concert and Symphonic Bands

"America the Beautiful" – HS Band

"Mansions of the Lord" – " from "We Were Soldiers"

Grand Finale: "Grand Old Flag" and "This Is My Country"