

Nev. lawmakers vote to create Tahoe sewer authority

A bill that would create the Douglas County Lake Tahoe Sewer Authority is awaiting Gov. Brian Sandoval's signature.

The Legislature has voted to abolish the 64-year-old Douglas County Sewer District No. 1 in favor of the new agency that would have more restrictive powers.

The original entity was formed by the state to ensure the Stateline casinos had a way of getting rid of their sewage.

The district in 2016 was accused by the Douglas County district attorney of violating open meeting and election laws.

The new agency would be governed by a member of each of the three districts it serves as well as two members appointed by Douglas County.

The sewer district had been governed by three board members; two casino executives and a rep from Edgewood Companies.

In addition to the casinos and Edgewood properties, the sewer district has more than 5,000 residential connections on the South Shore.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Teen dies after falling while

hiking at Emerald Bay

A 14-year-old girl died Wednesday after falling about 50 feet near Emerald Bay.

An off-duty police officer started CPR before she was transported to Barton Memorial Hospital in South Lake Tahoe. The teenager, though, had sustained fatal injuries.

The incident occurred just after noon on May 31.

El Dorado County sheriff's deputies said she was hiking near the Vikingsholm trail.

What authorities aren't releasing:

- Victim's hometown.
- If she was someplace she shouldn't have been since the Vikingsholm trail is paved.
- If she was really at Eagle Falls, which are raging and the rocks are slippery there.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Driver leaves scene after hitting bear in Incline

A bear had to be euthanized Wednesday after it was hit by a vehicle on Highway 28.

Washoe County sheriff's deputies responded to a report of an injured bear lying in the roadway south of Incline Village at approximately 12:40am May 31. The 3-year-old female bear was in the Memorial Point area south of Sand Harbor.

The bear was breathing but unable to move. Deputies consulted with a Nevada Department of Wildlife biologist by phone as he responded to the location and they determined that the most humane course of action would be to dispatch the bear in order to stop it from suffering.

Anyone who may have information about this incident is asked to contact the sheriff's department at 775.328.3350 or Secret Witness at 775.322.4900.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Tahoe casino win on the rise in April

Casinos at both ends of the lake had a better April compared to the state.

Stateline casinos saw their revenues increase 4.55 percent from 2016, while North Shore was up 10.97 percent.

Nevada's gaming revenue of \$886,528,810 in April was 1.19 percent higher than a year ago.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

3 Placer sheriff's employees

arrested in jail abuse case

By Sam Stanton and Nashelly Chavez, Sacramento Bee

Three Placer County sheriff's officials were arrested Wednesday on charges involving allegations of excessive force against jail inmates and falsifying evidence, the result of what Sheriff Devon Bell is calling "an extensive investigation" that included video recordings and other evidence.

The arrests of corrections Sgt. Megan Yaws, Deputy Robert Madden and corrections Officer Jeffrey Villanueva came after a probe that began with a supervisor reviewing routine video footage, the sheriff's department said in an announcement.

Yaws used to work for the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and Madden came from the Truckee Police Department.

Read the whole story

Educators grapple with youths' suicidal tendencies

By Kathryn Reed

"I hope you are ready, because I'm about to tell you the story of my life. More specifically, why my life ended. And if you are listening to these tapes, you're one of the reasons why."

And so begins the provocative Netflix series "13 Reasons Why." It is based on the book with the same name by Jay Asher (2007 Penguin Group).

It has been generating a ton of press, and has brought an otherwise taboo subject – suicide – out into the open.

Tuesday night was an opportunity for parents to speak with educators and agency reps about the TV show, suicide in general, bullying and what is going on locally. While the nearly two dozen people who gathered at South Tahoe Middle School were there to dispense info rather than gather it, for two hours people had an opportunity to learn and share. (Not a single school board member was part of this circle of concerned community members.)

Even the experts in the room differed on the merits and criticism of the television show. Consensus was for parents to watch it first, then decide if their child is up for the subject matter. It was acknowledged even if parents don't want their kids to watch "13 Reasons Why," access to it is readily available.



May 30 gathering at South Tahoe Middle School. Photo/LTN • **Suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10-24. • Suicide is the second leading cause of death for college-age youth and ages 12-18. • More teenagers and young adults die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease, combined. • Each day in the United States, there are an average of more than 5,240 attempts by young people**

grades 7-12. • Four out of five teens who attempt suicide have given clear warning signs. Source: Jason Foundation • U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline –800.273.8255

A suggestion was made to start with what is essentially episode 14, the behind the scenes look at what the directors went through, the experts they consulted, and the intent behind the show.

Watching the show with one's child will allow for discussion: it could be why consent to have sex is vital, it could be about what is being shared on social media, it could be about hiding behind an electronic transmission of meanness, it could be about their fears. The bully and the bullied need to be heard because both are hurting. Happy people aren't bullies, and those who are bullied can be traumatized to the point they see no way out but to end it all.

Suicide, rape, bullying – the series depicts them all in a raw manner. Topics are neither sensationalized nor glorified. It's life. And that's the hard part for many to comprehend; just how horrible being a teenager can be in this digital age.

In the 12 years Jim Tarwater has been superintendent of Lake Tahoe Unified School District he has seen the stress go up for kids.

"The bullying bothers me the most – the social – it's gotten out of hand," he said. "It's in the middle school."

Tarwater told *Lake Tahoe News* it's not unusual for 20 kids to attempt suicide every year. Middle school students are not immune from wanting to end their life. It's gotten so bad that the older kids in elementary schools are showing signs of depression and negative behavior more characteristic of older kids.

Kris Robison, a counselor at Douglas High School, had two students on Tuesday with suicidal issues. One was transported for care, the other not. Douglas County School District has a strict script to use to gauge the level of care a youth may need.

Safety is the No. 1 concern for educators and others when dealing with people who are contemplating suicide. They look at whether the person is likely to harm themselves, harm someone else or is in imminent danger.

But the schools can't do everything. A suspension for the bully could mean retaliation for the victim. It can be a nasty cycle.

Even though phones might not be allowed during the school day, they are weapons at other times. Pictures and words are shared – mean, hateful things. People film fights and send them to others. This is real – not something just reserved for a TV show.

Suicide, depression, mental illness – these are societal issues. Tarwater and others would like the community to be more engaged, and for students to have a passion for life. The social and emotional pieces need to be part of the curriculum. Starting next school year in California there must be a policy in place for grades 7-12 regarding suicidal issues.

It was noted that 20 percent of the population is living with a mental health condition, and 80 percent of that 20 is genetic. That is why knowing one's family tree could sound a warning alarm.

Mental health was not addressed in "13 Reasons Why," which was criticized at the Tahoe gathering.

THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, can be a trigger for a mental illness episode. A South Tahoe High School administrator said THC levels at the school are "off the

charts.”

“There is only so much we can do,” Tarwater said. That’s why parents, other family, friends and the community at large must be part of the solution.

SLT Whole Foods project faces appeal

A South Lake Tahoe resident is challenging the Planning Commission’s May 11 decision to approve what is locally known as the Whole Foods project.

The City Council on June 6 will hear the appeal.

Donna Gilpin cites five reasons she disagrees with the decision; most having to do with the mitigated negative declaration. She believes more environmental review is needed before demolition and construction begin.

The project is formally known as the Bijou Creek Watershed Project. It involves tearing down the Knights Inn on Highway 50. Halferty, the developer, plans to build a Whole Foods 365. A lease is already secured. Halferty also has control of the corner at the highway and Ski Run Boulevard. Both parcels will have commercial development and be linked.

Also part of the plans is to improve the stream environment zone in the area and to put in filtration so less sediment reaches Lake Tahoe.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Get ready for busy travel season

By David Koenig, Associated Press

If you're planning a big vacation trip this summer, move over. You're going to have lots of company.

By air or car, traveler numbers are expected to rise over last year thanks to a decent economy and stable gasoline prices.

U.S. airlines expect to carry 234 million passengers from June 1 through Aug. 31, up from the summer record of 225 million a year ago, according to the trade group Airlines for America.

While fares are edging up overall, they are still relatively affordable by historical standards. And travelers can find deals, especially on routes flown by discount airlines such as Spirit.

Read the whole story

Late amendment could crush Uber in Nevada

By Seth A. Richardson, Reno Gazette-Journal

Ride-hailing companies say they are under assault again from Democrats in the Legislature after an amendment was added to a

bill that the companies say would effectively end the services in Nevada.

Uber and Lyft, the largest ride-hailing companies in the state, already faced controversial legislation earlier in session they, including one bill that would have required a 15-minute wait time when a person requests a car.

Assemblyman Richard Carrillo, D-Las Vegas, proposed to amend SB 226 late Friday night. The amendment that the companies have called a “death blow” requires drivers to hold five times the amount of insurance coverage as a taxi cab driver.

Read the whole story

Lightning sparks small blaze in Carson Valley

Lightning on early evening of May 29 started a wildland fire in the Fay-Luther Canyon in the Carson Valley.

It was contained to less than an acre. No structures were threatened.

Smoke from the fire could be seen from quite a ways away.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report