

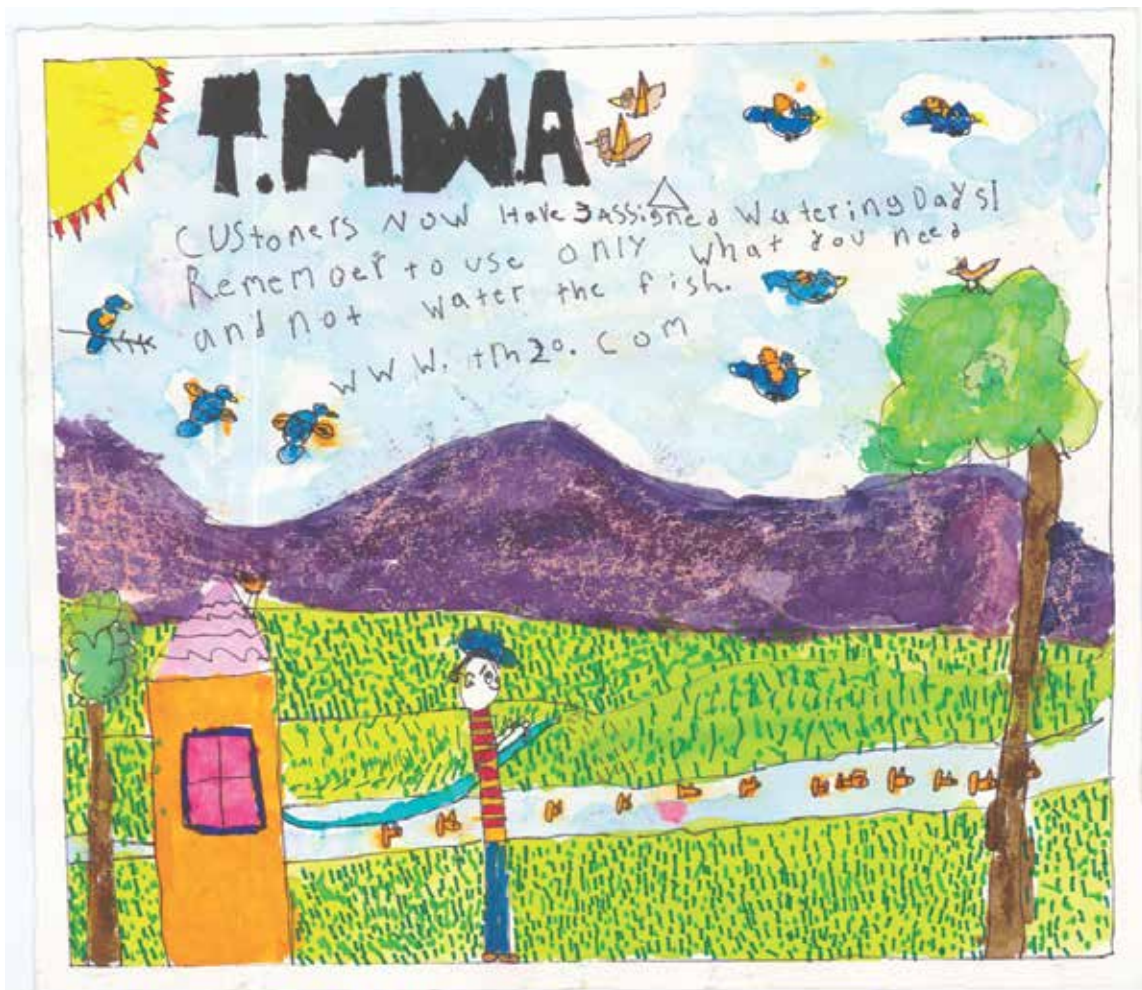


TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Press Clippings

August 15, 2013 – October 7, 2013



*Joshua & Sarah Burrows (Jessie Beck Elementary School)
2010 Poster Art Contest - Second Place, Grades K-3*

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July 16, 2013 1:05 pm

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Truckee Meadows Water Authority Saves \$28,000 in Making the Choice

TMWA NEWS — As planning begins on rehabilitation projects at Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), all angles are sought to save money, even on smaller projects. When a maintenance access bridge at TMWA's Fleish Hydro-Electric Power Generation Plant near Verdi was in need of replacement, a savings of \$28,000 was realized.

The challenge to the TMWA engineering team was to find a replacement solution that would not only be more durable, but also accommodate heavy equipment, such as cement trucks and large excavation machines.

“We had a bridge designed to utilize some salvaged steel from an old Highland flume structure and the quotes to build it came in at nearly \$100,000,” Pat Nielson, TMWA Manager of Distribution & Generation, said. “It was a workable solution but an expensive one. One of the contractors suggested a railroad flat car as an alternative,” he added. So,

Brent Eisert, Hydro/Diesel Generation Supervisor, researched the options and found a company in Oregon that would modify and deliver a 56' x 13' railcar bridge for about \$24,000. The new concrete footings and associated labor came in at \$48,000 for a total project cost of about \$72,000.

While the \$28,000 savings was a big factor in choosing the railcar bridge, this solution also provided for a quicker installation and an end product with a much greater load capacity. "The substructure has a much more robust steel framework than anything we had available, and likely a much longer life than a build-in-place bridge," Nielson said.

The railroad bridge was installed last month and currently serving the maintenance crews at the hydroelectric plant. Find the construction video at www.youtube.com/truckeemeadowswater

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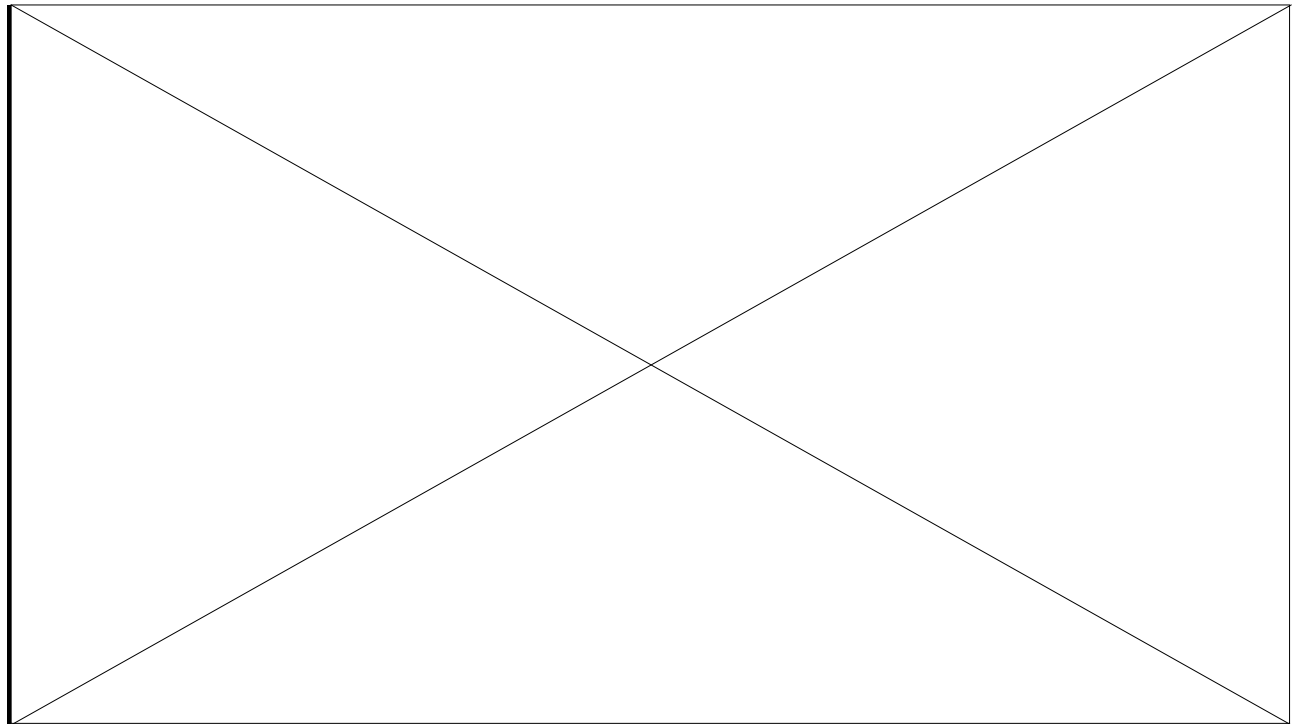
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State Health Officials: Ad Not Beginning Of Fluoridation Campaign

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By: **Ed Pearce** - Email
Updated: Tue 7:12 PM, Aug 13, 2013




 Flouride Debate Beginning Again?



RENO, NV - A TV commercial running on local stations makes the case for water fluoridation as a prime means of preventing tooth decay, likening adding fluoride to drinking water to adding vitamin D.

But it's playing to an audience here in northern Nevada which either has only naturally occurring fluoride in its drinking water or, in the case of the Truckee Meadows has none by law.


Voters here have twice said no to fluoride. A bill which would have mandated it failed in the 2009 legislature.

Until something changes on the legal front, this [message](#)  is being sent to people who don't have fluoride in their water and won't have it until they demand it.


So we ask, is this the opening shot in another attempt to put the issue before the voters.

"If there is I'm not aware of it,' says Melanie Flores, the Oral Health Program Manager at the state Division of Public and Behavioral Health.."

Instead Flores says, this is just a public awareness campaign using money from a federal grant from the Centers for Disease Control, a grant earmarked for oral health.


"What the community decides to do with it is really in their court," says Flores. "Our job is just to educate  people on the best practices according to the CDC."

And the CDC says water fluoridation is an effective means of reducing tooth decay.

Others, of course , would disagree with the CDC's conclusions.

In fact, in 2009 a hearing on that bill had to be cut short when tempers heated up.

Flores says the public awareness campaign is not designed to rekindle those passions, but if it has stirred debate even briefly, that may be a good thing.

"If you're pro-fluoridation or anti-fluoridation, the fact is you're talking  about it and educating yourself."

Can non-customers get sewer rebates in Reno-Sparks?

4:33 pm, Aug 17, 2013 | Written by [Mark Robison](#)

[inShare0](#)



Crews install more sewer line capability on Plumas Street in 2010. (RGJ file)

The claim

People who don't pay for sewer service in Reno and Sparks can get sewer rebates from the cities, which have a surplus of sewer funds despite seeking higher rates.

The background

Earlier this month, Christina Kinsley of Reno wrote the Reno Gazette-Journal:

"City council members have voted to increase your sewer bills and give the proceeds away as a rebate to folks who do not pay for sewer.

“The council voted to give folks who are on assisted living programs up to a \$120 sewer rebate. ...

“The part that really is odd is that the people who are eligible for the rebate don't need to prove that they pay their own sewer bills or that they pay for sewer at all. Renters of apartments qualify when their landlords are footing the bill.

“Why is the sewer division increasing everyone's bills when it has enough excess to give it all away?”

H. Russell Donovan of Reno wrote to Fact Checker asking about Kinsley's claims that “the Reno City Sewer service was running a surplus, and that the City Council had instituted a program to rebate payments to low income sewer rate payers, as well as to low income renters who do not even pay the city directly for sewer service. Is this true? If this has any basis in fact, what verification procedures are in effect to ascertain eligibility for these refunds?”

In her letter, Kinsley mentions Legends Mall and Mira Loma Park, which are in Sparks and Reno, respectively. So Fact Checker contacted both cities to see what's up.

First, let's look at Sparks.

If your definition of surplus is that it's got a cash balance on its books, then yes it has one.

City of Sparks spokesman Adam Mayberry said in an email, “By the end of FY 2013, our preliminary projections — preliminary as we're in the process of closing the books for FY 2013 — for the cash balances within the sewer funds, excluding the cash set aside for river flooding, are estimated to be about \$25M.”

(FY = fiscal year. M = million.)

Mayberry said “surplus” is in the eye of the beholder. That \$25 million could be used to hold off rate increases or it could be used to upgrade aging equipment.

“However, there are many capital needs at the sewer treatment plant as well as within the city's sewer infrastructure — pipes, storm drains, etc. — that the city could pay for, either in part or in whole, with available cash in order to save potentially millions of dollars in interest and debt issuance costs as an alternative to issuing debt and financing those needs,” he said.

To qualify for a rebate in Sparks, a person must be enrolled in either the Nevada State Welfare Division Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEA) program; federal programs for Social Security Disability Insurance

(SSDI, for disabled or blind persons) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI, for aged, blind and disabled persons with limited incomes); or Veterans Administration disability benefits.

Mayberry emailed, "They have to provide documentation, depending on what program they are eligible for, obviously. But bottom line — YES, they must provide the documentation, and they must be the recipient and not a spouse, for example."

Then there's the question of whether you have to pay for sewer service to get a rebate. Mayberry said the answer is yes, and that renters do qualify.

Asked if this is because it's considered that landlords are passing on the cost of the sewer bill through rents, he said, "I would say yes, but more so because they (the tenants) are probably paying the sewer directly even if they are the tenant."

Reno allows people to get a sewer rebate if they qualify for at least one of the same four programs that Sparks does.

The city's website says that to qualify, you must provide the annual letter of determination of benefits showing SSDI, SSI or VA disability.

Renters qualify but not tenants of hotels or motels.

"This means that some people who qualify and (who) rent may be eligible for the rebate even though their landlord pays for the sewer directly and they pay indirectly through their monthly rent amount," according to Reno finance director Robert Chisel and public works director John Flansberg in a joint email.

If you're a property owner and you're late on your sewer payments, the rebate is applied to your account.

Reno also considers that renters qualify for a sewer rebate because the cost is passed on through their rent.

As for whether Reno has a surplus of sewer funds, Chisel and Flansberg said no.

The city has two sewer accounts, one for sewer users and one for developers and builders. The user account pays for such things as maintenance, administration and debt from past projects. The development account pays for expansion projects.

"The Sewer User account is required to have a reserve equal to 60 days of operating costs, approximately \$5.4 million. In addition, it is prudent to have some additional reserve to handle emergencies, i.e. unexpected sewer

line collapse, treatment plant component failure or natural disasters (flood, earthquake)," Chisel and Flansberg wrote.

They added, "There are more projects identified for repair or replacement than the current funding source has available. Instead of incurring additional debt, the city of Reno is balancing the projects with the available funding to 'pay as you go.'"

One last thing: Let's say you want to pull one over on the cities. You're on a septic system but receive a qualifying benefit and are a resident. If you submitted the proper forms, what mechanism is in place to make sure the clerks know your address doesn't get sewer service?

Mayberry said, "I just can't see how people could 'pull one over on the cities.' If they are not a customer in Sparks, they simply don't qualify. We crosscheck the address and sewer account number to ensure they are a Sparks customer."

Chisel said, "Individuals on a septic system do not qualify, they need to be a current customer on the city of Reno Sewer System. We verify the applicant is the owner, we verify their account and that they are current on their payment. If they are a renter, they need to provide rental information for proof of being current on rent and are tenants in a location that is a customer."

The verdict

Regarding whether the cities have surplus sewer funds, it's not true. Their sewer bank accounts are flush (heh, flush), but they have repair and upgrade projects that can take up all the money and then some.

Further, there doesn't seem to be fraudulent rebates by unqualified people — documentation is required to qualify.

And to believe renters are somehow scamming the system is to misunderstand capitalism: costs are passed on to customers. Landlords charge rents that take into account sewer costs. A rebate is merely countering the added price in one's overall rent.

Truthmeter: 1 (out of 10)

P.S. Sparks will ask for a sewer rate increase Aug. 26.

Caption: Crews install more sewer line capability on Plumas Street in 2010.

■



Truckee Meadows Water Authority receives national award

Updated: Wednesday, August 21 2013, 02:12 PM CDT

RENO - Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) has received the "Directors Award of Recognition" from the Partnership for Safe Water. Only 2% of plants in the U.S. have received this honor.

With this award, TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant ranks among the highest performing water treatment plants in the country, producing high quality water for more than 330,000 residents in the Reno-Sparks area.

"We are honored to receive this award," said Mark Foree, TMWA General Manager. "Our goal is to continuously strive to improve our water quality, and by joining the ranks as one of the highest performing plants in the country, we have taken a large step toward achieving this goal. Special recognition must go to Paul Miller, our Manager of Water Quality and Operations, as well as the entire water quality and operations team, for their hard work and commitment to water quality excellence," Foree added.

TMWA received the award for successfully completing a rigorous Self-Assessment and Peer Review process developed by national experts that includes thorough assessment of factors that may limit treatment plant performance.

There are approximately 11,500 surface water treatment plants in the United States. TMWA's Chalk Bluff plant now ranks among 231 plants that have successfully gone through the assessment program and received the Partnership Award. The assessment process takes approximately 18 months to complete.

The Partnership's national volunteer initiative was developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other national water organizations representing water utilities that strive to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards.

Each utility, including TMWA, has voluntarily committed to the enhancement of drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment. As members of the Partnership, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operation and reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, namely *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that can cause illness. By making this commitment, the member utilities' treatment practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts.

Reno's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant named one of nation's best

Written by Jeff DeLong, jdelong@rgj.com

Aug. 21, 2013 |

[rgj.com](http://www.rgj.com)

The primary water treatment plant for the Reno-Sparks area is among the top-performing plants in the country, receiving an honor issued to only 2 percent of the nation's treatment plants.

The Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, has received the "Directors Award of Recognition" from the Partnership for Safe Water, utility officials announced.

"Our goal is to continuously strive to improve our water quality, and by joining the ranks as one of the highest-performing plants in the country, we have taken a large step toward achieving that goal," said Mark Foree, the water authority's general manager.

The utility received the award after completing a self assessment and peer review process developed by national experts.

The Chalk Bluff plant, which provides water drawn from the Truckee River for more than 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows, now ranks among the top 231 of about 11,500 surface water treatment plants nationwide.



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[Truckee Meadows Water Authority Receives National Award](#)

August 21, 2013 7:40 pm

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THIS IS RENO

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TMWA received the award for successfully completing a rigorous Self-Assessment and Peer Review process that was developed by national experts and includes thorough assessment of factors that may limit treatment plant performance.

There are approximately 11,500 surface water treatment plants in the United States. TMWA’s Chalk Bluff plant now ranks among 231 plants (only two percent of total plants) that have successfully gone through the assessment program and received the Partnership Award. The assessment process takes approximately 18 months to complete.

The *Partnership's* national volunteer initiative was developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other national water organizations representing water utilities that strive to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required federal standards.

Each utility, including TMWA, has voluntarily committed to the enhancement of drinking water quality and operational excellence in water treatment. As members of the *Partnership*, utilities make a pledge to their communities to improve their treatment operation and reduce the risk of exposure to microbial contaminants, namely *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that can cause illness. By making this commitment, the member utilities' treatment practices undergo a rigorous review developed by national experts.

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News | August 21, 2013

Truckee Meadows Water Authority In Nevada Receives National Award

Only Two Percent of Nation's Treatment Plants Receive Honor

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SOURCE: Truckee Meadows Water Authority

[Free Water Online Newsletter](#)



TMWA offers tours of award-winning facilities to public

Updated: Thursday, August 22 2013, 04:47 PM CDT

RENO - Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) invites its customers and the public to tour and learn about two of its facilities this September.

Residents of the Truckee Meadows can learn about what it takes to get water from the river to the tap by touring TMWA's award-winning Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant. Expert staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, as well as answer your questions. Tour dates are: Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17th at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 1 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 28th at 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday in September, customers can also tour the Verdi Hydroelectric Power Generation Plant, which has been producing clean, renewable energy for over 100 years. The plant, located several miles upstream of Chalk Bluff, harnesses the natural flow of the Truckee River to generate more than 2.3 megawatts of power. Tours will take place at 2 p.m. on Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Email rsvp@tmwa.com or call (775) 834-8290 to reserve a spot.

For more about TMWA and its award-winning practices, refer to this [previous Foxreno.com story](#) from August 21, 2013.

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RENO, Nev. — Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) has just received the “Directors Award of Recognition” from the Partnership for Safe Water (Partnership), according to a press release.

With this award, TMWA’s Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant ranks among the highest performing water treatment plants in the country, producing high quality water for more than 330,000 residents in the Reno-Sparks area, stated the release.

“We are honored to receive this award,” said Mark Foree, TMWA general manager. “Our goal is to continuously strive to improve our water quality, and by joining the ranks as one of the highest performing plants in the country, we have taken a large step toward achieving this goal. Special recognition must go to Paul Miller, our manager of Water Quality and Operations, as well as the entire water quality and operations team, for their hard work and commitment to water quality excellence.”

TMWA received the award for successfully completing a rigorous Self-Assessment and Peer Review process that was developed by national experts and includes thorough assessment of factors that may limit treatment plant performance, noted the release.

Read the entire press release [here](#).



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Learn About Your Water: Tour TMWA's Water Treatment Plant and Hydroelectric Power Generation Plant throughout September

[Truckee Meadows Water Authority](#) (TMWA) invites customers and the public to tour and learn about two of its facilities this September.

Residents of the Truckee Meadows can learn about what it takes to get water from the river to your tap by touring TMWA's [Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant](#). Expert TMWA staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, as well as answer your questions. Sign up for any of the following tours: Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17th at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 1 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 28th at 10 a.m.

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Tour participants must be at least 18 years of age. Please email rsvp@tmwa.com or call 834-8290 to reserve your spot. Each tour is limited to 20 people.

Please note: these are lengthy walking tours and will involve walking on uneven surfaces.

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City Council reconvenes after month-long absence

by Garrett Valenzuela

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The Sparks City Council held its first and last council meeting of the month Monday after a month-long hiatus from the Legislative Chambers. After a hefty list of presentations and recognitions, the Council returned to business, beginning with scheduled improvements to Golden Eagle Regional Park (GERP).

The Council awarded Spectra Contract Flooring an informal quote of \$59,951 for the GERP Deck Coating Project to seal and restore the second level flooring at the complex's center building. The concrete floor has developed cracks due to the porous nature of the concrete causing water leaks, according to Assistant Director of Community Services John Martini.

Martini said multiple departments discussed the best solution for the concrete floor before deciding on the "Key Lastic SWS" flooring system. Martini said the elastomeric urethane system is specifically designed for waterproofing of concrete decks and structures, which will stand up to the various elements at GERP.

The City Council also addressed and moved forward with the C Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project giving Campbell Construction Company the contract for a little more than \$339,000. Martini said staff discovered a portion of the sewer line was caved in and partially blocked on C Street between 18th and 19th streets. The pipe will be replaced for \$124,600 and will be included in the scope of the project.

Martini said NV Energy replaced its gas line and Truckee Meadows Water Authority is replacing its water line as part of the project, which will also improve the existing roadway in the affected area. Martini credited the video monitoring system for city sewer lines in identifying the problem before further damage was caused or a complete shutdown was brought on for the line on C Street.

The Sparks City Council also approved the upgrades to City Hall's electrical system with a contract to Briggs Electric for \$736,700 to improve the outdated electrical system at the Prater Way facility. Martini said the 45-year-old building has gone through many expansions throughout its years, but said the electrical system "is outdated, inefficient, lacks code compliance and continually has problems providing enough power to various areas of the building."

The project will replace or rejuvenate electrical panels, conduit and wiring, ground rod grids, the generator switch outlet, concrete for conduit trenches, receptacles and circuits and a few more adjustments throughout the building.

The City Council authorized a resolution for the transfer of \$4,787,115 from the City of Sparks 2013 State Volume Bond Capacity to the Nevada Department of Business and Industry for the First Time Homebuyers Program offered by the Nevada Housing Division (NHD) in the City of Sparks.

Housing Specialist George Graham said the First Time Buyer Program has benefitted from the privately allocated bond funds previously, and Graham said the program has aided several Sparks residents in recent years.

"NHD has consistently and actively provided mortgages to Sparks residents," Graham said. "Over the past three years NHD has provided approximately \$13,314,512 in community investment in the form of mortgages and down payment assistance (2010 - \$4,956,778; 2011 - \$5,986,000; 2012 - \$2,371,734) and has assisted a total of 108 households in the City of Sparks over the three-year time frame."

The City Council also addressed a personnel matter concerning retiring Sparks Fire Department Chief Andy Flock. Flock will retire on Sept. 13 and the City Council accepted current Division Chief Thomas Garrison as the new Fire Chief upon Flock's retirement. City Manager Shaun Carey said Garrison will serve as Interim Fire Chief for the remainder of Flock's time with SFD and work alongside him as he has done for the past several years.



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Lake Tahoe Dam celebrates 100th anniversary

Updated: Tuesday, August 27 2013, 04:33 PM CDT

TAHOE CITY - The Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Truckee Carson Irrigation District, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the completion of Lake Tahoe Dam by holding a ceremony on Friday, August 30, 2013, from noon to 2 p.m.

The ceremony will begin at noon with a welcome to Tahoe City, a history of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California with a Tribal Invocation, and comments by agencies and local officials. The ceremony will conclude with the unveiling of a memorial plaque and refreshments.

Lake Tahoe Dam, part of Reclamation's Newlands Project, was constructed to control the top six feet of Lake Tahoe, equivalent to 732,000 acre-feet of water. The dam is operated to release Lake Tahoe water to supplement flows in the Truckee River. In 1981, the dam was listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is now an integral feature in Tahoe City.

Lake Tahoe Dam's 100th Anniversary also marks the beginning of a community-wide celebration. The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, Tahoe City and Tahoe City Public Utility District are planning a four-day event, beginning on Friday, August 30, and ending on Monday, September 2, to celebrate Tahoe City's 150th anniversary and Tahoe City Public Utility District 75th anniversary. For more information, please visit Tahoecity150.com.

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Lake Tahoe Dam, part of Reclamation's Newlands Project, was constructed to control the top six feet of Lake Tahoe, equivalent to 732,000 acre-feet of water. The dam is operated to release Lake Tahoe water to supplement flows in the Truckee River. In 1981, the dam was listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is now an integral feature in Tahoe City.

Lake Tahoe Dam's 100th Anniversary also marks the beginning of a community-wide celebration. The North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, Tahoe City and Tahoe City Public Utility District are planning a four-day event, beginning on Friday, August 30, and ending on Monday, September 2, to celebrate Tahoe City's 150th anniversary and Tahoe City Public Utility District 75th anniversary. For more information, please visit Tahoecity150.com.

August 28, 2013 6:49 pm

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TMWA NEWS RELEASE



[Truckee Meadows Water Authority](#) (TMWA) invites customers and the public to tour and learn about two of its facilities this September.

Residents of the Truckee Meadows can learn about what it takes to get water from the river to your tap by touring TMWA's [Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant](#). Expert TMWA staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, as well as answer your questions.

TMWA has just received an award from the *Partnership for Safe Water* for the Chalk Bluff Plant, ranking it in the top two percent of the highest performing water treatment plants in the country. Sign up for any of the following tours: Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, at 3 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 24, at 1 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 28, at 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday in September, customers can also tour the [Verdi Hydroelectric Power Generation Plant](#), which has been producing clean, renewable energy for over 100 years. The plant, which is located several miles upstream of Chalk Bluff, harnesses the natural flow of the Truckee River to generate more than 2.3 megawatts of power. Tours will take place at 2 p.m. on Sept. 4, 11, 18 and 25.

Tour participants must be at least 18 years of age. Please email rsvp@tmwa.com or call 834-8290 to reserve your spot. Each tour is limited to 20 people.

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[Holland Project and Sierra Nevada College partner to exhibit “In Spite Of” featuring 14 artists](#)

FINDING EVERYDAY FAITH IN A TWO-PART EXHIBITION Opening in September, the Holland Project Gallery and the Tahoe Gallery at Sierra Nevada College will be partnering for the first time to feature, In Spite Of, a joint exhibition that explores unconscious faith and everyday beliefs. Curated by Sarah Lillegard and featuring fourteen artists from the Northern Nevada region and across the United States, the exhibit is split between two galleries creating a cross dialogue between the spaces. While each portion of [...]

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[Tour TMWA's water treatment, hydroelectric power plants](#)

TMWA NEWS RELEASE Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) invites customers and the public to tour and learn about two of its facilities this September. Residents of the Truckee Meadows can learn about what it takes to get water from the river to your tap by touring TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Plant. Expert TMWA staff will explain the water treatment and distribution processes, as well as answer your questions. TMWA has just received an award from the Partnership for Safe [...]

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NEWS

Lake Tahoe Dam Marks 100th, Tahoe City Turns 150

August 31, 2013 4:37 PM

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TAHOE CITY, Calif. (AP) — The first dam built to control the flow of the Truckee River as it tumbles down the Sierra Nevada out of Lake Tahoe has turned 100 years old.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are celebrating the Lake Tahoe dam's centennial through the Labor Day weekend along with the 150th anniversary of Tahoe City, Calif., where the dam was completed in 1913.

The first dam at Tahoe was a rock-filled crib erected at the lake's outlet in 1870.

The current one stretching 109 feet long and 18 feet high was authorized by Congress in the early 1900s as part of the Newlands Project designed to tap Tahoe's waters to irrigate tens of thousands of acres of farmland east of Reno.

The dam next to the iconic Fanny Bridge — named after the view of the backsides of visitors leaning over for a glimpse of the large trout below — controls the level of the top 6 feet of Lake Tahoe equivalent to 732,000 acre-feet of water or more than 242 billion gallons.

It was the first of several dams that would be built to store water along the Truckee River [system](#). Others created the Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs.

"Having that additional [storage](#) was critical to how we look today," former Nevada state archivist Guy Rocha told the Reno Gazette-Journal.



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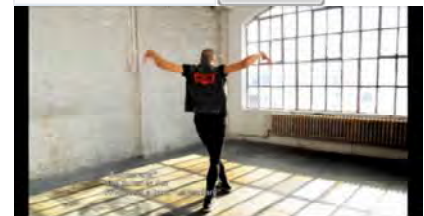
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“Putting that dam in was really the first effort to try and control the flow of Truckee. That was the first dam built for that purpose,” he said.

The bureau kicked off a four-day celebration beginning Friday with a ceremony and unveiling of a memorial plaque at the Gatekeeper’s Museum co-hosted by the Truckee Carson Irrigation District and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Local residents were invited to be a part of a commemorative town photo to be taken on Commons Beach at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

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Lake Tahoe Dam Holds 100th Anniversary Celebration

>PRWEB.COM Newswire<="">

Tahoe City, CA (PRWEB) August 30, 2013

The Bureau of Reclamation, in partnership with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Truckee Carson Irrigation District, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the completion of Lake Tahoe Dam with a ceremony held at the dam at noon on Friday, Aug. 30.

The celebration began with welcoming remarks by Kenneth Parr, Reclamation; Cindy Gustafson, Tahoe City Public Utility District; and Herman Fillmore, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. A Tribal Invocation was given by Washoe Tribal member Melba Rakow.

Speakers included Pablo Arroyave, Reclamation; California Assemblyman Brian Dahle; Lucas Ingvoldstad, representing Nevada Senator Harry Reid; Rocklund "Rocky" Deal, representing California Congressman Tom McClintock; Steve Davey, representing California State Senator Ted Gaines; Brian Barton, California State Parks; Elwood Lowery, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Mike Carrigan, Truckee Meadows Water Authority; and Ernest Schank, Truckee Carson Irrigation District. The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of a memorial plaque.

Lake Tahoe Dam, part of Reclamation's Newlands Project, was constructed to control the top six feet of Lake Tahoe, or some 732,000 acre-feet of water. The dam releases water from Lake Tahoe to supplement flows in the Truckee River. In 1981, the dam was listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is now an integral feature in Tahoe City.

Pablo Arroyave, Deputy Regional Director for the Mid-Pacific Region, stated, "The Bureau of Reclamation was formed in June 1902 when President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act. One of our very first authorized projects was right here: the Truckee-Carson Project, today known as the Newlands Project. And so, in 1903, just one year after Reclamation was established, we began to build the Truckee-Carson Project, which includes Lake Tahoe Dam."

The dam's 100th anniversary celebration begins a four-day community event organized by the North Lake Tahoe Historical Society, Tahoe City and the Tahoe City Public Utility District which are also celebrating Tahoe City's 150th and Tahoe City Public Utility District's 75th anniversaries.

More information on the anniversary celebrations is available at

<http://www.tahoecity150.com>. For additional information on the Newlands Project, please visit http://www.usbr.gov/projects/Project.jsp?proj_Name=Newlands+Project.

Read the full story at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/8/prweb11080612.htm>

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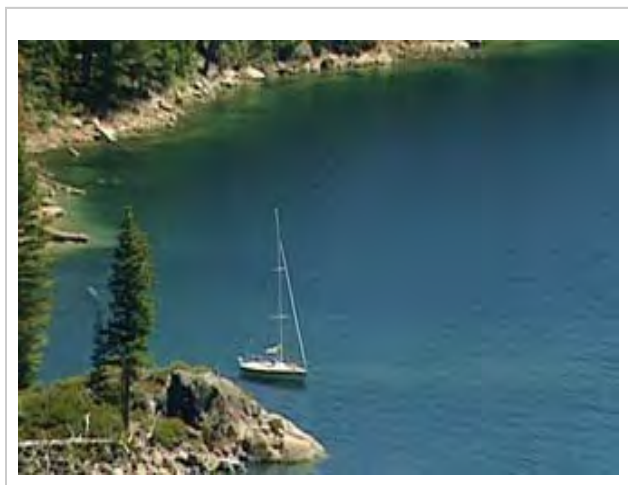
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Tahoe City's 150th birthday, Lake Tahoe Dam's 100



Published: 8/31 6:16 pm

Updated: 8/31 6:17 pm

TAHOE CITY, Calif. (AP) — The first dam built to control the flow of the Truckee River as it tumbles down the Sierra Nevada has turned 100 years old.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are celebrating the Lake Tahoe dam's centennial through the Labor Day weekend along with the 150th anniversary of Tahoe City, Calif., where the dam was completed in 1913.

Local residents plan a commemorative town photo to be taken on Commons Beach at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

The first dam at Tahoe was a rock-filled crib erected in 1870.

The current one is 109 feet long and 18 feet high. It was authorized by Congress in the early 1900s as part of the

Newlands Project designed to tap Tahoe waters to irrigate thousands of acres of farmland east of Reno.

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1 killed, 6 injured in early morning crash in OC

Lake Tahoe Dam marks 100th, Tahoe City turns 150

Published: August 31, 2013

The Associated Press

TAHOE CITY, Calif. — The first dam built to control the flow of the Truckee River as it tumbles down the Sierra Nevada out of Lake Tahoe has turned 100 years old.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are celebrating the Lake Tahoe dam's centennial through the Labor Day weekend along with the 150th anniversary of Tahoe City, Calif., where the dam was completed in 1913.

The first dam at Tahoe was a rock-filled crib erected at the lake's outlet in 1870.

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It was the first of several dams that would be built to store water along the Truckee River system. Others created the Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs.

"Having that additional storage was critical to how we look today," former Nevada state archivist Guy Rocha told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

"Putting that dam in was really the first effort to try and control the flow of Truckee. That was the first dam built for that purpose," he said.

The bureau kicked off a four-day celebration beginning Friday with a ceremony and unveiling of a memorial plaque at the Gatekeeper's Museum co-hosted by the Truckee Carson Irrigation District and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Local residents were invited to be a part of a commemorative town photo to be taken on Commons Beach at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

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1 killed, 6 injured in early morning crash in OC



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Fallon-area farmers face water order cutoff

Associated Press

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District said a water order cutoff looms for Fallon-area farmers as Lahontan Reservoir's level continues to drop.

The district said it will no longer take orders for water delivery when estimated existing and standing orders bring the reservoir's storage to 4,000 acre-feet of water.

The reservoir, which holds waters of the Carson and Truckee rivers west of Fallon, stored 13,673 acre-feet of water on Friday.

The district said the cutoff will occur earlier than originally thought, and it can't guarantee any orders placed will be filled as the date approaches.

The reservoir's water levels are down after last winter produced about half of the Sierra Nevada's average annual snowpack.

Local News

Vegas water agency proposes new Lake Mead drilling

September 08, 2013 06:06 PDT

(Eds: APNewsNow. Will be expanded.)

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- Water officials in Las Vegas say they need to fast-track a new Lake Mead drilling project to ensure the region can draw a steady drinking water supply from the shrinking Colorado River reservoir.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1ekoxa9>) the Southern Nevada Water Authority expects the tunneling job this winter will extend the life of the oldest and shallowest of two existing intake pipelines.

The lake provides about 90 percent of Las Vegas' water supply.

Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy is telling board members it's vital for the \$12 million project to start immediately and be finished next year.

A vote is planned Sept. 26.

The work comes with officials projecting delays completing a so-called "third straw" tunnel to one of the deepest parts of the lake.

Information from: Las Vegas Review-Journal, <http://www.lvrj.com>

[print](#)

Scientists find hot days, bugs and permafrost in the Arctic

by Tribune Staff

09.08.10 - 06:45 pm



RENO — Attacked by hungry mosquitoes the size of small birds, stranded in reindeer hunters shacks and slogging around boot-swallowing muddy bogs of the Siberian arctic — it was all in a day's work for University of Nevada, Reno researchers and students in the Polaris Project, an international team of scientists and students studying climate change in which, after 10,000 years, permafrost is

thawing at an alarming rate.

“We see the permafrost receding hundreds of yards each year and the ancient carbon from Pleistocene era plants and animals being unleashed into the air, soil and water,” said Sudeep Chandra, UNR faculty member and researcher.

Chandra has been on the team of principal investigators since the project began three years ago.

“Where the carbon goes and how it will affect climate are part of what the team is investigating,” he said.

Chandra and three of his students returned recently from a one-month expedition near Cherskiy at the Northeast Science Station located about 128 miles south of the Arctic Ocean in northeastern Russia on the Kolyma River. They spent their days collecting scientific samples, bug bites and sunburns in the uncharacteristic 90-degree heat.

“The central theme of the project is to understand the transformation of carbon across an area in the Arctic that has more carbon stored underneath it than the whole Amazon basin's above-ground vegetation,” Chandra said. “Thus, all of the projects explore the transformation of this carbon along different paths, for example, soils to water, particulate to bug, or dissolved state via microbe communities.”

Student Emily Ulrich, from Dayton, investigated the biodiversity of bottom dwelling invertebrates and the role they play in transforming particulate carbon in the watershed, and whether they could or could not be changing this carbon to a greenhouse form.

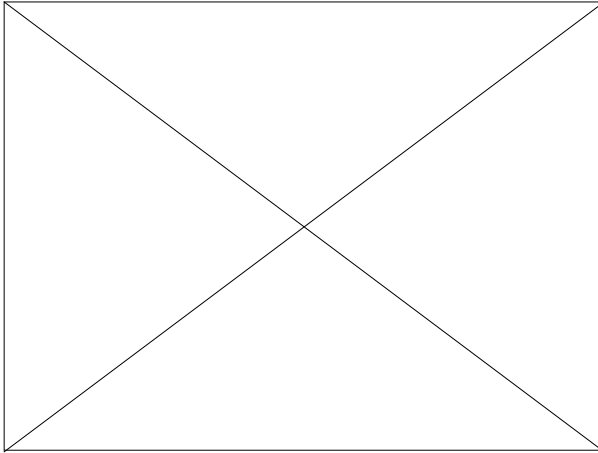
Sophomore Melissa Robbins, on her first trip to the arctic, based her field research on findings from last year's project, focusing on seasonal transformation of carbon to a dissolved state.

The Polaris Project is a collaborative effort by the Woods Hole Research Center, seven universities and colleges and the Northeast Science Station in Cherskiy, Russia. The project is supported by the National Science Foundation's International Polar Year Program.

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On Your Side: Not a smooth road for Reno's new payroll system

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Reported by: Joe Hart
Email: jhart@mynews4.com



[Print Story](#)

Published: 9/09 6:50 pm

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Updated: 12:11 am

RENO, Nev. (KARNV & MyNews4.com) - The City of Reno is getting ready to launch a new automated payroll system at a cost of about \$1.5 million. City officials insist it is money well spent and they say it will streamline the payroll process, but is the city being forthcoming about how your tax dollars are being spent?

Reno's Budget Manager Kate Thomas says the new automated payroll system will pay off in the long run even if its rough going right now. "With any new system you're going to have some hiccups," Thomas told News 4.

One of those hiccups involves a contract that was not approved as required by the Reno City Council. The council did approve a deal to pay ADP \$1.1 million to provide a new automated payroll system for the city's 1,500 employees. News 4 has learned the city has also paid out \$218,000 to a company called Aerotek to manage the payroll project until it comes on line, that contract was not approved by the council until after it News 4 brought it up and after the money had already been spent. That's a violation of city code.

City code says any payment of more than \$50,000 needs to first be approved by the council. Thomas told News 4, "When you find a policy that was overlooked that's a concern." She called the Aerotek mistake a simple oversight, but with the project now more than two months behind schedule we wanted to know how the test or trial runs of the new system have fared.

News 4 asked for the numbers but we were told in an email from Thomas, "there are no numbers per se.. it's either absolutely right or it's not." How could there not be any numbers for a payroll system that needs to crank-out \$3.5 million dollars in city paychecks every payroll period? We kept asking. In fact we had to ask three times before the city finally admitted they do have the numbers. In the first test run the new automated payroll system was over by \$108,000. In the second trial run the system was under by \$48,000. In the most recent trial run ADP was over again, this time by \$1,200.

City officials insist they are working out the discrepancies and hope to launch the new system this week. Why were we first told there were no numbers from those test runs? Thomas told News 4, "I didn't know there were any numbers, that's all up to ADP. They just tell us when its ready... We were glad you asked because that helps us tune-up the process. Its a learning process every time you implement a project."

Thomas insists the city has nothing to hide despite that contract that was paid out in violation of their own policy and the initial denials that any test run numbers actually existed. She maintains at a cost of 1.5 million dollars this new system is a good investment.

We should know September 10th as the city decides whether they are ready to go live with the ADP system or whether more fine-tuning is needed.



Truckee Meadows Water: Top 2% for Quality in Country

Posted: Sep 10, 2013 4:42 PM PDT
Updated: Sep 10, 2013 4:52 PM PDT

You use it for just about everything from laundry to brushing your teeth. We're talking about water and it takes a lot of work to make sure we all have it every day.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority has the task of doing just that. TMWA said they are providing all of us with some high quality H2O.

In fact, it's some of the best water you'll find in the country, according to a new report and TMWA wants to show all of us how it's done.

"What most people say after the tour is boy, we didn't realize what all went into getting water through this plant and to our tap," said Mark Foree, general manager for TMWA. It's important that we convey to the community what all it takes to produce and deliver clean water to them on a daily basis."

Tuesday, Channel 2 News took a tour of the Chalk Bluff Water Treatment plant off of McCarran Boulevard, which treats about 80% of the water we use.

TMWA was just recognized by The Partnership for Safe Water for its outstanding water quality.

TMWA was ranked in the top two percent for having some of the highest performing water treatment plants in the country.

We talked to a man who took the tour of Chalk Bluff. He said he was impressed.

"I thought it was excellent," said Hank Kimbell of Sparks. "It brought a lot of clarity to how the water gets processed once it comes out of the Truckee River, flows through here and ends up at houses."

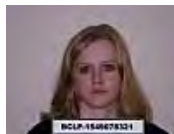
If you want to take a tour, here's when you can.

Upcoming tours are next Tuesday at 3pm. Tuesday, September 24th at 1pm or Saturday, September 28th at 10am.

To sign up, you can call 775- 834-8290.

Written by Chris Ciarlo

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Weekly Where the Jobs Are report

Sep. 10, 2013 | 0 Comments

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A A



Written by Staff report

FILED UNDER

- Business
- Economy
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Sierra Nevada

Sherwin-Williams will hold a hiring event for drivers from 8 a.m.-noon on Sept. 18 at Reno JobConnect, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite H in Reno.

The company is seeking drivers at least 25 years old with at least 2 years' verifiable experience with hazmat endorsement and ability to lift 40-50 pounds frequently and 50-100 pounds occasionally.

Other job news:

- West Corp. is hiring full-time sales and technical associates at \$11/hour plus benefits for taking incoming calls on products and service questions. The company will hold hiring events on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m.-noon at Reno JobConnect; 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 16 and 30 at Sparks JobConnect, 1675 E. Prater Way; and from 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 4 at Carson City JobConnect, 1929 N. Carson St.

- The Dairy Farmers of America will hold a hiring event from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 16 at 121 Industrial Way in Fallon for openings at the powdered milk processing facility.

Other employment opportunities in Northern Nevada continue to be available, as shown on CareerBuilder.com.

TOP FIVE JOB SECTORS AS OF TUESDAY:

MANAGEMENT: SCCM administrator, TEKsystems Inc.; safety/risk/emergency planning coordinator, Truckee Meadows Water Authority; keno supervisor, Baldini's Sports Casino; production manager, SK Food Group; restaurant manager, Fuddruggers; audit manager, senior finance manager, Robert Half Finance & Accounting; operations team supervisor, West Corp.; benefits administrator, Accountemps; superintendent, Balfour Beatty Construction; account manager, ABF Freight System Inc.; assistant managers, Round Table Pizza; general managers, Yum Pizza Hut Corp.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Customer technical support broadband products, TESSCO Technologies; software engineer III, systems engineer II, senior systems engineer, software engineer II, Sierra Nevada Corp.; database administrator, TEKsystems Inc.; technical associate, Henry Schein Inc.; data/cost analyst, eCycleBest; senior software developer, Asynchrony Solutions Inc.; LMS administrator, Prospect Education LLC; information technology specialist, Army National Guard; technical support rep, AppleOne; Web designer, Wimmer Solutions; data analyst administrator, Intellisource.

HEALTH: Occupational therapist assistant, physical therapist assistant, Life Care Centers of America; Physician assistant/nurse practitioner, phlebotomist, Corizon; registered nurse, Gastroenterology Consultants Ltd.; Nurse, Mountain View Health and Rehabilitation; manager of clinical practice, Gentiva Health Services Inc.; registered nurse, the Right

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Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2013



USGS

La Nada

Wet or dry this winter? So far, no clue in the ocean

Betting on a wet or dry winter this year? Don't look for El Niño or La Niña to give you an edge. It's La Nada out there in the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific isn't giving up any secrets on the subject. Scientists say the water is neither warm nor cool. Which means it's just a coin flip, unless things change soon. *Fresno Bee*

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UC Davis

Past matters

Policies worry farmers more than climate change

California farmers feel more threatened by climate policy than they do by climate change, according to a new study from the UC Davis, which found that the greatest climate risk Yolo County farmers believe they face in the future is not drought, water shortages, or temperature changes, but government regulations. *UC Davis*

READ THE STUDY:


- *Perceptions and responses to climate policy risks among California farmers*



KTVN

Chalk one up

Truckee Meadows: Top 2% for water quality in U.S.

 The Truckee Meadows Water Authority has some of the best water you'll find in the country, according to a new report. TMWA was recognized by The Partnership for Safe Water — ranked in the top 2 percent — for having one of the highest-performing water treatment plants, the Chalk Bluff facility, in the United States. *KTVN Reno*

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Photo of the Week



Coachella Valley Water District

Coachella Valley Water District Headworks Improvement Project

Work continues on Coachella Valley Water District's Wastewater Reclamation Plant No.7 Headworks Improvement Project as workers do an early-morning pour of the building's foundation. The project includes a new influent pump station, screening and grit removal facilities. The headworks facility will improve treatment efficiency by removing large objects and heavy inorganic materials, such as sand and gravel prior to the activated sludge treatment process. This plant produces tertiary treated recycled water that is distributed to three golf courses.

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Volunteers pick up more than 16 tons of trash along the Truckee River

Staff reports

Volunteers picked up more than 16 tons of trash and weeds along the Truckee River from Verdi to Lockwood on Saturday as part of the Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful Truckee River Cleanup Day.

It was more trash and weeds than in the last four years of the project, KTMB said in a statement.

"KTMB's Truckee River Cleanup Day is a great reminder to always make sure your trash gets in a trash can or recycling bin," Christi Cakiroglu, KTMB executive director, said in the statement. "We have a beautiful river running right through our community that provides our drinking water and a great place to fish, boat or play, but it's up to us to keep it healthy and beautiful."

This year's removal included invasive weed species because they use more water than native plants and burn easier.

They also stenciled 502 storm drains this year to remind people that the drains emptied into the Truckee River.

"People don't think much of it when they lose track of a soda bottle or beer can along the river, and they might not realize they are one of hundreds doing the same thing all summer," Cakiroglu said in the statement. "When you add fertilizer, car-washing soap, pet waste and other lawn runoff going down the storm drains, our river can get unhealthy really quickly. But through events like this, and the wonderful work of our volunteers, people become aware of how simple, everyday decisions as individuals make a vital contribution to our community's health and economy."

KTMB's Truckee River Cleanup Day is sponsored by the Truckee River Fund, and coordinated in partnership with NV Energy, Waste Management Recycle America, Wells Fargo, YP, the cities of Reno and Sparks, Sun Valley General Improvement District, Washoe County, Washoe County Health District, Allied Nevada Gold, Barrick, IGT, REI, Signature Landscapes, and Whole Foods.

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Bill offers grants to fight drought



Construction worker Derrick Thompson works on piping designed for odor control at the City of North Las Vegas Water Reclamation Facility in this Feb. 9, 2011, file photo. (DAVID BECKER/LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL)

By STEVE TETREULT
STEPHENS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — With concerns mounting over extreme weather, a new bill in the U.S. Senate would offer grants for cities to upgrade their water systems.

The act would make available \$50 million a year for five years. The money would be divided among communities that can demonstrate need and come up with half the

money on their own to upgrade water towers, pipelines, sewage plants or flood systems.

Sponsors said the bill would help adapt to changes in water conditions. In Nevada and parts of the West, that would be drought. In other parts of the country, it could be floods or catastrophic storms.

The bill may be considered as standalone legislation, or it might be added to a water resources bill the Senate passed in May and that the House may take up next month, congressional officials said.

The measure was introduced by Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Harry Reid, D-Nev.

“Years ago, when I was asked by a reporter what I thought was the biggest challenge facing Nevada, I said water,” Reid said in a statement.

“In Southern Nevada, Lake Mead is at risk of dropping to a dangerously low elevation.

“This bill would provide for much needed funding opportunities to help adapt to the impacts that climate change and extreme weather have on our nation’s water infrastructure,” Reid said.

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Lawsuit dismissed against RTC regarding violation of Clean Water Act



Published: 9/24 3:18 pm

Updated: 9/24 6:34 pm

RENO, Nev. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) -- The Regional Transportation Commission was informed today that the Upper Southeast Communities Coalition voluntarily dismissed its federal lawsuit seeking to stop construction of Phase I of the SouthEast Connector based on alleged violations of the Clean Water Act.

RTC contends they never violated the Clean Water Act (CWA) or any other federal requirement.

As stated by RTC Executive Director Lee Gibson, "There was never a discharge of dredge and fill material into the Truckee River or Steamboat Creek from any construction activities associated with Phase I."

The USACE is currently considering the RTC's application for a Section 404 permit under the CWA for Phase II of the SEC and will make an appropriate decision consistent with the

requirements of dredge and fill activities under Section 404 of the CWA. A public comment process is underway ensuring regional community participation. No final agency decision regarding the RTC's permit application for the Phase II work has yet been made.

The permit application details specific wetland mitigation measures based on detailed studies of the biology and hydrology of the area. The RTC understands that the USACE has extended the deadline for public comments until October 15, 2013. The USACE will continue to review the RTC's application and make a decision on the issuance of a permit in due course.

The SEC is a 5.5 mile long roadway. It will only impact 11.2 acres out of 173.3 acres of waterways and wetlands within the project corridor. The RTC is still committed to replacing impacted wetlands at the ratio prescribed by the USACE as part of the Mitigation Plan submitted.

Copies of key pleadings filed in the litigation can be found at www.rtcwashoe.com and www.SouthEastConnector.com.

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Southern Nevada water boss to retire

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File-This Sept. 11, 2006, file photo shows Pat Mulroy, the Southern Nevada Water Authority's general manager, speaking at the Nevada State Legislature, in Carson City, Nev. Mulroy, the woman who has controlled the spigot of southern Nevada's water supply for more than 20 years, says she plans to retire. (AP Photo/Nevada Appeal, Chad Lundquist,File) / AP



Written by The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Pat Mulroy, the woman who has controlled the spigot of southern Nevada's water supply for more than 20 years, says she plans to retire.

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Mulroy, 60, has been has been general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority since the agency was formed in the early 1990s. She has also served as general manager of the Las Vegas Valley Water District, the state's largest water utility, since 1989.

She said she hasn't set a firm date and will stay on as long as necessary to ensure an orderly transition.

In a statement to employees Tuesday, Mulroy said, "The entire team here is made up of an incredible group of people. I know that you will succeed with me or without me."



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Sep. 24, 2013



For decades, her job has been to make sure Las Vegas has an adequate water supply to keep up with booming growth and meet future demands.

Besides conservation measures, those efforts have included plans to export groundwater from rural valleys hundreds of miles away. That proposal has been approved by the state engineer but is being challenged in court.

The water authority also is building a deeper intake straw to pull water from Lake Mead should water levels continue to drop.

Managing water in the desert Southwest is no easy task, where the drought-prone Colorado River is the main water supply for southern Nevada, home to nearly 2 million people and host to 40 million visitors annually. The river flows into Lake Mead and also provides water to six other states and Mexico.

"This town will always have its water crises, so there's no great time to leave," Mulroy told the Las Vegas Review-Journal. "In 2000, there was about a four-month window when everything was good."

Lake Mead has dropped more than 90 feet since the drought began over a decade ago. Earlier this year, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation projected Lake Mead could drop another 30 feet by 2015, bringing it dangerously close to shortage levels. The agency forecast the lake could sink to 1,084 feet by next fall, its lowest level since 2010 and just 9 feet from triggering a federal shortage declaration.

Such a declaration would reduce Nevada and Arizona's available Colorado River water. Nevada receives about 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water annually. One acre-foot is enough to supply two average homes for one year.

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Photo by Mike Wolterbeek

University researchers at forefront of preserving Lake Tahoe

It's always been hard work, this collaborative business of uniting the vision of management agencies, research arms of institutions of higher learning and the will of the public regarding the future of Lake Tahoe.

A day before President Bill Clinton made an appearance at the Lake Tahoe Presidential Summit in 1997, Vice-President Al Gore hiked part of the trail to Mount Tallac on Tahoe's south shore to get a better feel for the lake's reputed beauty.

Gore could see this was a national treasure.

Later that morning, during a three-hour open-air workshop, Gore spoke of a "consensus" of purpose that would include effort from all with a stake in Lake Tahoe's future.

Sixteen years later, Gore returned to Lake Tahoe on Aug. 19 to deliver the keynote address for the annual Lake Tahoe Summit, hosted by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid at Sand Harbor State Park.

Since 1997, the work of University researchers, in collaboration with their partners at the Desert Research Institute and institutions such as UC-Davis, has been significant in the ongoing effort to preserve and sustain Lake Tahoe's future.

Current projects by University researchers

are evaluating the most effective mechanical methods to remove and manage non-native fish, supporting restoration of native fish in the lake and studying the 90 percent decline in bugs living in the muck at the lake's deepest, darkest depths. University research has informed current forest, wildfire and soil management practices to reduce nutrients and sediment from going into the lake. Mountain-top environmental monitoring stations are being established by the University's Nevada Seismological Laboratory and use remote sensing equipment to collect and transmit basin-wide climate and environmental and climate information.

Through his earthquake fault research at Fallen Leaf Lake in the Tahoe Basin, Graham Kent, director of the Seismological Laboratory, has confirmed evidence of 200-year-long megadroughts. Underwater stands of pre-Medieval trees in the lake suggest the region experienced severe drought at least every 650 to 1,150 years during the mid- and late-Holocene period. The last one ended 750 years ago.

"It is uncertain when the next megadrought will occur," Kent said. "With climate change upon us, it will be interesting to see how carbon dioxide loading in the atmosphere will

Researcher Christine Ngai, center, scoops warm-water invasive fish from the Lake Tahoe Keys in a pilot project to determine the effectiveness of mechanical removal methods for management of non-native fish and the restoration of native fish in Lake Tahoe. Her project, based in the University's Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory, received international attention this year when her team, including personnel from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, found a monster goldfish in the lake.

affect this cycle."

"The University's researchers have taken an expansive view of the lake, using science to better understand the entire basin and its surrounding environment," said Mike Collopy, assistant vice president for research and director of the University's Academy for the Environment. "We've made important progress. We have a responsibility to remain vigilant and work collaboratively with other research institutions and management agencies to preserve the Lake Tahoe Basin, and we're committed to doing it."

LOOK ONLINE

Learn more about University research at Lake Tahoe and read the 2013 Lake Tahoe Summit Report at <http://tahoe.blogs.unr.edu/>.

—John Trent '85/'87, '00M.A.
and Mike Wolterbeek '02

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September 27, 2013 9:07 pm

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TMWA NEWS RELEASE



Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) offers winterization workshops in October to help residents prepare their homes for cold weather and freezing temperatures.

Join TMWA's conservation staff for one of two free workshops to learn how to turn off your sprinkler system and protect water pipes from breaking this winter.

The first workshop will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 5:30 p.m., and the second is on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 5:30 p.m. Both workshops will be led by TMWA's Conservation department at TMWA's main office at 1355 Capital Blvd. in Reno.

Homeowners can avoid the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes by attending one of these free workshops to learn how to protect your home's pipes – inside and out – from freezing temperatures this winter. For more information about winterization, please visit the Conservation section of www.tmwa.com.

To RSVP, please e-mail conservation@tmwa.com or call 834-8005.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) is a not-for-profit water utility, overseen by elected officials from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County. TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 330,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

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TMWA to Offer Free Winterization Workshops

Posted: Sep 27, 2013 3:38 PM PDT
Updated: Sep 27, 2013 3:38 PM PDT

Truckee Meadows Water Authority wants to help you get your home ready for winter. It's holding two workshops next month on how to protect pipes and sprinklers in freezing temperatures.

The first will be this Wednesday.

The second is later in the month on Tuesday, October 29th.

Both of them start at 5:30pm.

The free workshops are happening at the Water Authority main office at 1355 Capital Boulevard in east Reno.

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Meadowood freeway project in Reno done, but dispute persists

Written by Jeff DeLong

Sep 29

rgj.com

Negotiations continue over who is to blame over lengthy delays affecting Reno's newest freeway interchange, with big bucks at stake.

Work is complete at the interchange at Meadowood Mall Way and Interstate 580/U.S. 395. Crews are dismantling an irrigation system installed to get landscape vegetation growing. Sculpted light towers designed to highlight Nevada's prehistoric features are working, with nighttime light displays to change in color according to holidays and special events. Freeway traffic has flowed at normal speed through the area since late May.

"Bottom line, it's 100 percent complete," Nevada Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Magruder said of Northern Nevada's only major highway project funded through the federal government's 2009 economic stimulus program.

What's yet to be completed is resolution of a dispute between the state and the project's lead contractor, Las Vegas-based Meadow Valley Contractors Inc. When the Department of Transportation agreed to declare the project technically finished in mid-July, the firm had been on the job for 622 so-called "working days."

That's 159 working days beyond the limit dictated in its \$21.8 million contract with the state. With daily penalties potentially assessed against the contractor at up to \$5,300, that puts the potential liability faced by Meadow Valley at up to \$842,700.

Work on a project designed to improve a major traffic bottleneck — particularly during the holiday shopping period — commenced in April 2010.

"Three years later, we're still talking about it," Magruder said.

Citing company policy regarding contract disputes, Meadow Valley representatives have declined comment on project delays. But documents obtained by the Reno Gazette-Journal through a public records request revealed a dispute that has the contractor blaming design flaws for problems that pushed back the project's completion.

The most significant issue involved more than 40 concrete shaft foundations built to support the new freeway bridge over Meadowood Mall Way.

NDOT officials counter that delays were caused by flawed construction practices by Meadow Valley and a key subcontractor.

At least for now, the dispute has stayed out of the courts as the two sides continue closed-door discussions on liability associated with delays, Magruder said.

"We're still working with the contractor. We still don't know what they will be charged," Magruder said.

As for the finished interchange — which is passed by about 90,000 vehicles per day on the freeway — all is well, Magruder said.

“It’s actually functioning very well,” Magruder said. “The unfortunate thing with this project is it did fall behind. It just took longer than we all expected.

“Maybe we can try to make sure this doesn’t happen again,” Magruder said.



Vhswhp ehuf#</#5346

Running for mayor? Legal question must be settled before term-limited members of Reno City Council can enter race

By Ray Hagar
rhagar@rgj.com

Eddie Lorton, a Reno businessman and declared candidate for mayor of Reno, is angry with some of the people he may face in the 2014 election.

Five current and former members of the Reno City Council are barred by term limits from serving again, and four have shown interest in running for mayor in 2014.

Lorton contends that state law and the Reno City Charter say the mayor is a member of the City Council. Therefore, those term-limited council members are not eligible to run.

Lorton said he plans to file a lawsuit "very soon."

"I just can't take these people," Lorton said in a recent interview. "Here they are, already serving 12 years, trying to get back in again. Not only is it illegal, it's also morally wrong. Even the president of the United States has term limits."

Reno Mayor Bob Cashell agrees the 2014 election to pick his successor has potential problems.

Cashell, who is term-limited himself, wants a judge to rule on the eligibility of the termed-out council members.

The people in question include current members Sharon Zadra and Dwight Dortch plus former members Jessica Sferrazza and Dave Aiazzi, who's now a Washoe County School Board trustee. Former Councilman Pierre Hascheff, now a municipal judge, has not indicated he's considering a bid for mayor.

"For the citizens, it is best to ask the court soon to give us an opinion," Cashell said last week.

Cashell wants the issue settled before candidates file in March 2014 and the ballots are printed. If the candidates' eligibility is decided too late, the city could be stuck with the cost and confusion of reprinting ballots and reprogramming voting machines.

Campaign plans and candidate financing also hinge on a judge's ruling, Cashell said.

"You would think people running campaigns would want to know soon," Cashell said.

"Who is going to donate to their campaigns if people don't know who can play and who can't play?" he said.

"The voters, they don't want to find out at the last minute, after we've printed the ballots and sent them (to troops) overseas," Cashell said. "Then, we'll have to go out and cancel them at the last

minute.”

The two council members who are considering a run certainly want the issue clarified.

“We need to know because we have to submit the information for the printing of the ballot, and that’s really a time-sensitive issue,” Zadra said. “The driving point is knowing what is legal.”

Added Dortch: “We’ve had a few people during public comment say that they are going to challenge it once the election comes around.

“But my attitude is, it would be better finding out sooner than finding out later.”

Differing legal opinions

Two Nevada legal opinions have addressed the issue, Cashell said. And they contradict each other.

One, from the Nevada Attorney General in 2008, says it is OK for term-limited council members to run for mayor.

Another, conducted by the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau in 2011, said they can’t.

While the Attorney General’s Office said the mayor and the six members of the Reno City Council are separate positions, the state Legislature’s legal staff argued the mayor and City Council members are part of the same local government body.

In other words, term-limited council members are ineligible to run for mayor.

Richard Combs, the executive director of the LCB, said he could not confirm the opinion was given, citing attorney-client privileges.

Meanwhile, the Reno Gazette-Journal independently confirmed that the opinion had been given to a Northern Nevada lawmaker.

Cashell and Reno City Councilwoman Neoma Jardon also confirmed its existence.

“Opinions are just that — opinions,” Jardon said. “The LCB opinion came out and said they (council members and mayor) are the same. Then the attorney general ruled no, they are distinctive. You literally have two opinions that are just that.”

“So, in order to get clarity, it has to go to a judge,” Jardon said. “Again, I’d rather have that clarity now and not have our voters confused.”

Jardon said it is important to note that the City Council is not advocating for any candidates when they advocate for a ruling clarifying who is eligible to run.

“I just want to make sure from the city’s standpoint that we can and will be heard from a position of neutrality,” Jardon said. “We are not advocating for or against it. We are saying, let’s just have a judge give us some clarity.”

Jardon and Cashell are concerned that the issue won’t be decided in a timely fashion, especially if a judge requires that only a filed candidate for mayor can bring suit. Filing starts March 3 and ends at 5 p.m. March 14.

“Some people say that you have to have a dog in the hunt or you can’t file suit like that,” Cashell said.

“But I don’t see why you can’t ask the court to rule if a term-limited person on the City Council can run for mayor or not. Let’s get a ruling, clear it up for the citizens because they don’t know.”

Game changer

A ruling could dramatically affect the future leadership of Reno, said Eric Herzik, dean of the political science department at the University of Nevada, Reno.

One of the termed-out council members will probably win the election, he said. If a judge rules they can’t run, then the race turns on its head.

“The experienced council people would be the favorites in the race,” Herzik said. “They would likely win. So if you take them out, it completely changes the dynamic.”

“Also, some potential candidates have stayed out of seriously pursuing the race, because they have to look at facing a Sferrazza or a Dortch, who have money, name recognition and more organization. But you take them out, the field is wide open.”

If a term-limited council member is elected mayor, it won’t be the first time it has happened in Nevada.

Henderson Mayor Andy Hafen was elected in 2009 after serving as a member of the Henderson City Council since 1987.

The opposition

Two members of the City Council do not want Reno to ask a judge for a ruling because they don’t want to get the city involved in a political issue.

“This question of eligibility applies to five people, and I just don’t think it is really the city’s job to get involved and pursue this avenue,” Councilwoman Jenny Brekhus said. “This is a question about the interpretation of our charter. And the irony is that these people had six legislative sessions before now to have questions about the charter.”

Brekhus and Councilwoman Hillary Schieve opposed the city’s involvement earlier this month. The two-vote minority was enough to block any city action on the issue.

That’s because both Dortch and Zadra could not vote on the matter because they may run for mayor, leaving just three members of the City Council in favor of asking a judge for a ruling — not enough to clear the seven-member body’s four-vote majority needed to approve the measure.

Dortch said he did not know why Schieve and Brekhus would be in opposition.

“You would have to ask them that because it didn’t make sense to me,” he said. “I still think you’d want to clarify, the sooner the better.”

Because two members cannot vote on the matter, the Reno City Attorney may issue an opinion to reduce the number of votes needed pass the measure from four to three. The City Council postponed the issue at its meeting last week.

“Would we even be having this conversation if the people on this council were not running for mayor?” Schieve said. “This is a policy agenda decision. This is not the job of city hall. I don’t want to spend taxpayers’ money. If they want their opinions, they should spend their own money to get them.”

When council members use tax money as an excuse for not seeking a legal opinion, it makes Lorton wince.

“They selectively choose when money is an issue and when it is not,” Lorton said.

Lorton said he wants to file the lawsuit before the city does, though he acknowledges if he files the lawsuit, the outcome may be different if the city ultimately gets an opinion from a judge.

“I don’t want the city doing it, with its own biased opinions,” Lorton said.

“I’m forced into doing it,” Lorton said. “I don’t want to do it, but I want to do it way in advance (of filing for election). I want the citizens to have a fair opportunity.”

He promised action “soon.”

What about the voters?

It is prudent for Reno to seek a legal opinion, said Fred Lokken, a political science professor at Truckee Meadows Community College. Yet if the underlying motive is to block “career politicians” from seeking office, that’s wrong.

“Really, it is the voters that decide if these individuals seem like career politicians or if their experience in office is something that they are looking for. That is not for a judge to decide. I’d argue that this is an issue for the ballot box.”

“There are times that voters may feel that someone who has served for a while, during difficult times, really contributes something,” Lokken said. “They may prefer that to the approach of electing someone who is brand-new and is going to be involved in on-the-job training for up to a year or more, while major issues are brewing.”

Additional Facts

MORE INSIDE

RGJ political reporter Ray Hagar handicaps the field, taking a closer look at who’s in, who’s out and who the dark horses will be in next year’s mayor’s race **5A**



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Truckee Meadows Water Authority Helps Homeowners Winterize

RENO,
Nev. - With
winter fast



approaching, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority is reminding homeowners to winterize their irrigation systems, preferably by the end of the month. They're holding two free workshops during the month of October to explain the process.

"The workshops are intended to empower customers to be able to do this themselves," water conservation consultant Lauren Reid said. "Landscape companies also provide this service at a cost but we try to break it down because it's simple enough to do yourself."

TMWA employees went through the process for several dozen homeowners Wednesday evening.

"The biggest hurdle is figuring out how your system works, getting familiar with it so you can shut it down every year," Reid said.

They recommend the process to anyone with a sprinkler system. If water is left in the pipes, they could freeze and burst.

“When people don't turn off their irrigation properly and they do freeze it's a big mess,” water conservation coordinator Lauren Kunin said. “We've seen ice skating rinks out there when people didn't winterize.”

You can check to see if you've done the job properly by looking at your water meter.

Once the system is shut off, they recommend keeping it that way through the winter months and using a hose if plants and trees need attention during the winter months.

“If you do put water on your trees, disconnect the hose afterward and let that drain out so you don't get any ice stopped up in your hose,” Reid said.

TMWA also recommends insulating pipes and faucets in unheated areas, sealing off access doors and air vents and leaving cabinet doors open on colder days. This allows warm air to circulate under sinks.

There is another free workshop at TMWA's main office, 1355 Capital Blvd., on October 29th.

Find this article at:

<http://www.kolotv.com/news/headlines/Truckee-Meadows-Water-Authority-Helps-Homeowners-Winterize-226255531.html?ref=531>



Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

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Good Morning Truckee to focus on Truckee watershed, HGTV Dream Home

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TRUCKEE, Calif. — From Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake, the Truckee River flows just more than 100 miles and is a microcosm of western water issues.

The life-blood of northwestern Nevada, the Truckee River is rich in history and controversy. Stakeholders on the river include cities, farmers, wildlife, endangered fish, Native Americans, two states and the federal government.

Drop in to Good Morning Truckee, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 7 a.m. as Janet Phillips of the Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway and Truckee River Watershed Council's Lisa Wallace present an overview on the health of the Truckee River.

Learn about hydrology, water quality deterioration and remediation, endangered and threatened fish, hydropower generation, riparian habitat restoration, flood control planning, and future of the Truckee River under the Truckee River Operation Agreement (TROA).

Janet R. Phillips' career has centered on the Truckee River, first as assistant water master and later as water policy director for Sierra Pacific Power Company, the water purveyor for Reno, Nev. Her passion for the Truckee River is expressed today in leading an effort to create a bike/pedestrian trail along the entire length of the river.

In July 2001, Lisa joined the Truckee River Watershed Council as the executive director. Previously, she worked at Earth Island Institute as the director of restoration initiatives, managing programs supporting grassroots groups undertaking habitat restoration. Other related work experience includes TreePeople, where she managed community based tree planting projects.

Participants will also hear a presentation by Jack Thomasson, HGTV professional house planner, on the 2014 HGTV Dream Home being built in Truckee at Schaffer's Mill. The 18th annual HGTV Dream Home is part of a grand prize package that will be awarded in March 2014. The 3,200 square foot home was designed by Ward-Young Architecture. The HGTV Dream Home Giveaway is the most successful consumer promotion in cable TV history and will promote Truckee to millions of viewers. Jack Thomasson, who has been in charge of HGTV's Dream,

Green and Smart Homes since they started, scouts the nation looking for property on which to build.

Good Morning Truckee is open to the public the second Tuesdays at Truckee Tahoe Airport, 7-8:30 a.m. Price at the door for general public is \$10; Truckee Donner Chamber members \$8 and includes a continental breakfast and raffle.

Good Morning Truckee is presented by the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce in partnership with sponsors Tri Counties Bank, The Office BOSS, the Sierra Sun, 101.5FM Truckee Tahoe Radio, Truckee Tahoe Airport District, the Town of Truckee, and Red Truck. Additional sponsorships opportunities are available.

Good Morning Truckee is a community forum to provide timely and relevant information on a variety of topics and create a networking opportunity.

For more information, contact the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce at 530-587-8808 or e-mail info@truckee.com.

Most fluoride would go down the drain

Oct 07

rgj.com

They're at it again! Trying to fluoridate our water. A few years ago this was voted on and "we, the people" said "NO."

It's just my wife and I. if we both drank eight glasses of water daily that's one gallon a day total for both of us. That's 30 gallons a month.

Tooth brushing? Another gallon a day, 30 gallons more.

Cooking? A quart a day, eight gallons more.

Total water passing through our teeth: 68 gallons a month.

Winter: According to TMWA we use 3,000 gallons a month. That's 2,932 gallons going to showers, dishes, laundry, cleaning, etc.

Summer: Irrigation is necessary. Per TMWA, we use 35,000 gallons a month and we have everything on a drip system. That's 34,932 gallons not going to our teeth.

What equipment will be needed to add fluoride to the water, and at what cost? What about maintenance personnel monitoring, operating, repairing this equipment?

We will have approximately 816 gallons of fluoridated water running through our teeth annually. The rest of the approximately 24,184 gallons will go down the drain.

Want fluoride? Buy a fluoride toothpaste and leave the rest of us alone. We can't afford the cost.

Bob Gold, Washoe Valley



R.fwrehu#; /#5346

People on the Move: Tissier receives award for TMWA work

Jeff Tissier, chief financial officer for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, received the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association for his work on the agency's comprehensive annual financial report. The award recognizes high standards and full disclosure in financial reporting. It is the tenth straight year that the water authority was awarded the recognition. The authority's comprehensive annual financial report also received the association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. To view the annual report, visit http://tmwa.com/about_us/financial_information/.

Lake Tahoe Dam marks 100th, Tahoe City turns 150

The Associated Press News Fuze

Posted:

MercuryNews.com

TAHOE CITY, Calif.—The first dam built to control the flow of the Truckee River as it tumbles down the Sierra Nevada out of Lake Tahoe has turned 100 years old.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are celebrating the Lake Tahoe dam's centennial through the Labor Day weekend along with the 150th anniversary of Tahoe City, Calif., where the dam was completed in 1913.

The first dam at Tahoe was a rock-filled crib erected at the lake's outlet in 1870.

The current one stretching 109 feet long and 18 feet high was authorized by Congress in the early 1900s as part of the Newlands Project designed to tap Tahoe's waters to irrigate tens of thousands of acres of farmland east of Reno.

The dam next to the iconic Fanny Bridge—named after the view of the backsides of visitors leaning over for a glimpse of the large trout below—controls the level of the top 6 feet of Lake Tahoe equivalent to 732,000 acre-feet of water or more than 242 billion gallons.

It was the first of several dams that would be built to store water along the Truckee River system. Others created the Boca, Stampede and Prosser reservoirs.

"Having that additional storage was critical to how we look today," former Nevada state archivist Guy Rocha told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

"Putting that dam in was really the first effort to try and control the flow of Truckee. That was the first dam built for that purpose," he said.

The bureau kicked off a four-day celebration beginning Friday with a ceremony and unveiling of a memorial plaque at the Gatekeeper's Museum co-hosted by the Truckee Carson Irrigation District and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Local residents were invited to be a part of a commemorative town photo to be taken on Commons Beach at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Column: Your watercraft may be inspected; it's a small delay for a good cause

Written by Ron Penrose
Jul. 30, 2013 |

rgj.com

As you may know, aquatic invasive species (AIS) are fouling water bodies across the country and have the potential to pose major biological and infrastructure damage. Nevada has not been immune to this problem as Lake Mead has become infested with Quagga mussels which have seriously damaged the lake's ecology. This problem has also increased the cost of municipal water supply and treatment for the Southern Nevada Water Authority. In Northern Nevada, these mussels have also been detected in juvenile form in nearby Lahontan Reservoir.

The Truckee River system, along with other waterways and lakes in Northern Nevada, is blessed with very high quality water. However, the Truckee River system has indeed been impacted by invasive species as seen by the recent establishment of Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Tahoe at the Tahoe Keys; Asian clams at Emerald Bay and Donner Lake; and most recently, the detection of New Zealand mudsnails in many local reaches of the Truckee River. All of these species are fast-multiplying invaders that threaten to overwhelm the ecosystems in our waterways.

Here in the Truckee Meadows, protecting the quality of the region's drinking water source is clearly the top priority of Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA). As such, TMWA has been vigorously engaged in the battle to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and has supported the development and implementation of the watercraft inspection and decontamination program currently in effect for Lake Tahoe.

TMWA also supports a similar program soon to be implemented at other reservoirs within the Truckee River watershed. Funding from The Truckee River Fund is being used to accomplish this effort. Established by TMWA in 2005, the fund supports projects and programs that protect and enhance water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed.

Some might find the watercraft inspections to be inconvenient. However, to the TMWA staff who are dedicated to delivering great quality drinking water, this small delay helps protect our waterways which is vitally important to not only our drinking water supply, but to everyone's recreational enjoyment and our tourism based economy.

Remember, when you encounter a watercraft inspection, what you really are seeing is water quality preservation in action — designed to prevent a "Lake Mead" type infestation in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River system. Please support these efforts.

For more information about various inspections: visit: www.tahoeboatinspections.com, www.truckeeboatinspections.com or www.ndow.org.

Ron Penrose is a project manager for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

Sent to: Tell the Board

Marlene Olsen

From: Marlene Olsen
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2013 8:39 AM
To: 'stevenurie@gmail.com'
Subject: RE: A question from last week's Truckee meeting

Hi Steve:

We will be including your correspondences in TMWA's Board of Directors agenda packet for the October meeting, as this was submitted to our Tell the Board function.

If I can help with anything else, please let me know.

Marlene Olsen

GoodStanding Outreach
775-829-2810

From: Steve Urie [<mailto:stevenurie@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2013 3:00 PM
To: Penrose, Ron
Cc: Teresa Crimmens; Andy Otto; tmwaboard; Foree, Mark; Mazeres, Kim; Marlene Olsen
Subject: A question from last week's Truckee meeting

At last week's working group meeting you asked me a question that I didn't get a chance to answer. It was: What do I have against protection? The simple answer is nothing, as long as it's needed and cost-justified. (Like most people, I have an aversion to spending public money and using public resources for unneeded or wasteful purposes.)

I have a question for you. Do you believe that dreissenid mussels can colonize in Donner Lake or any other Truckee Regional lakes? And if you do, I have a followup request. As you know Teresa Crimmens, Andy Otto, and I are a subcommittee that is assembling data to determine the risk posed by all potential AIS in Truckee Regional waters, please send to each of us those studies or data that indicates they can. Thank you, Steve

From: Penrose, Ron [<mailto:rpenrose@tmwa.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 2:07 PM
To: Steve Urie
Cc: Foree, Mark; Mazeres, Kim; Marlene Olsen
Subject: RE: RGJ Opinion Article

Steve: Although I disagree with your perspective, everyone is entitled to their own opinion concerning the local and regional impacts of AIS. To gain a better understanding of the TMWA perspective, I invite you to a personal tour of TMWA's water supply and treatment facilities which are threatened by AIS. Please give me some dates and times that work for you.

Best Regards

Ron Penrose, M.S., P.E.
Project Manager
Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Reno
775-834-8017

From: Steve Urie [<mailto:stevenurie@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 02, 2013 1:36 PM
To: Penrose, Ron
Subject: Fwd: RGJ Opinion Article

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steve Urie** <stevenurie@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 2, 2013 at 1:04 PM
Subject: RGJ Opinion Article
To: Ron Penrose <rpenrose@tmwa.net>
Cc: tmwaboard@tmwa.com, Teresa Crimmens <tcrimmens@tahoercd.org>, Andy Otto <andyotto@telis.org>, Dan Olsen <dolsen@townoftruckee.com>, David Bunker <dbunker@moonshineink.com>

Mr. Penrose, last spring during the Truckee AIS policy meetings you criticized me in an email for annoying you and implied I wasn't professional by not giving you more time to review my position paper on the proposed Truckee Area AIS Plan. Apparently, others on the working group and steering committee found time to not only review the science behind the paper, but since the ordinance is on indefinite hold, to also change their opinion about the necessity for mandatory watercraft inspections in the Truckee River Watershed in the Truckee Area.

You write that through the Truckee River Fund, the TMWA supports "the development and implementation of the watercraft inspection and decontamination program currently in effect for Lake Tahoe." And that "TMWA also supports a similar program soon to be implemented at other reservoirs within the Truckee River watershed." Since Boca, Stampede, and Prosser are the only reservoirs within the Truckee River watershed, aren't you stating as fact a highly improbable outcome for the Truckee Area AIS plan currently in review?

After obliquely inferring that costs incurred by the Southern Nevada Water Authority due to quagga mussels could be incurred by the TMWA, you write, "The Truckee River system has

indeed been impacted by invasive species as seen by the recent establishment of Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Tahoe at the Tahoe Keys; Asian clams at Emerald Bay and Donner Lake; and most recently, the detection of New Zealand mudsnails in many local reaches of the Truckee River. All of these species are fast-multiplying invaders that threaten to overwhelm the ecosystems in our waterways."

As you may know, [quagga mussels](#) can't survive, much less multiply, in Lake Tahoe or other Truckee River Area lakes and reservoirs; the U.S. Forest Service has determined that the Eurasian watermilfoil has little negative impact on High Sierra lakes and streams and is currently devoting no resources to its control; and [Asian clams](#) cause no harm where they have colonized - - in fact because they are filter-feeders, they remove algae and improve water quality. This is relatively new information, so it's certainly excusable that you are not up to date on the latest AIS facts and science; however, it seems indefensible to say, "New Zealand mudsnails are in many local reaches of the Truckee River. [And] are fast-multiplying invaders that threaten to overwhelm the ecosystems in our waterways."

Overwhelm the ecosystems? -- in the last year, a grand total of three NZMSs have been detected in the Truckee River above downtown Reno. And as you may know, NZMSs can't colonize in water with less than 200 micro-Siemens of conductivity, a threshold that very little water in the Truckee River Watershed ever reaches. But more importantly, as an engineer and project manager you surely understand since there are no motorboats or sailboats on the Truckee River, the boat inspections you so ardently support would not have prevented a few New Zealand mud snails from finding a home in the river near Reno.

I found your email and your comments at the working group meetings to be uninformed -- similarly, I thought your RGJ opinion article was inaccurate and misleading. More importantly, as one of TMWA's customers, I find it unconscionable that 93,000 others and me have paid for the last four years on average more than \$2 a year for a poorly conceived and designed AIS program in the Truckee Area. Even many Truckee residents who pay nothing for the program agree it's a waste of money -- but they thank you. Yours truly, Steve Urie