

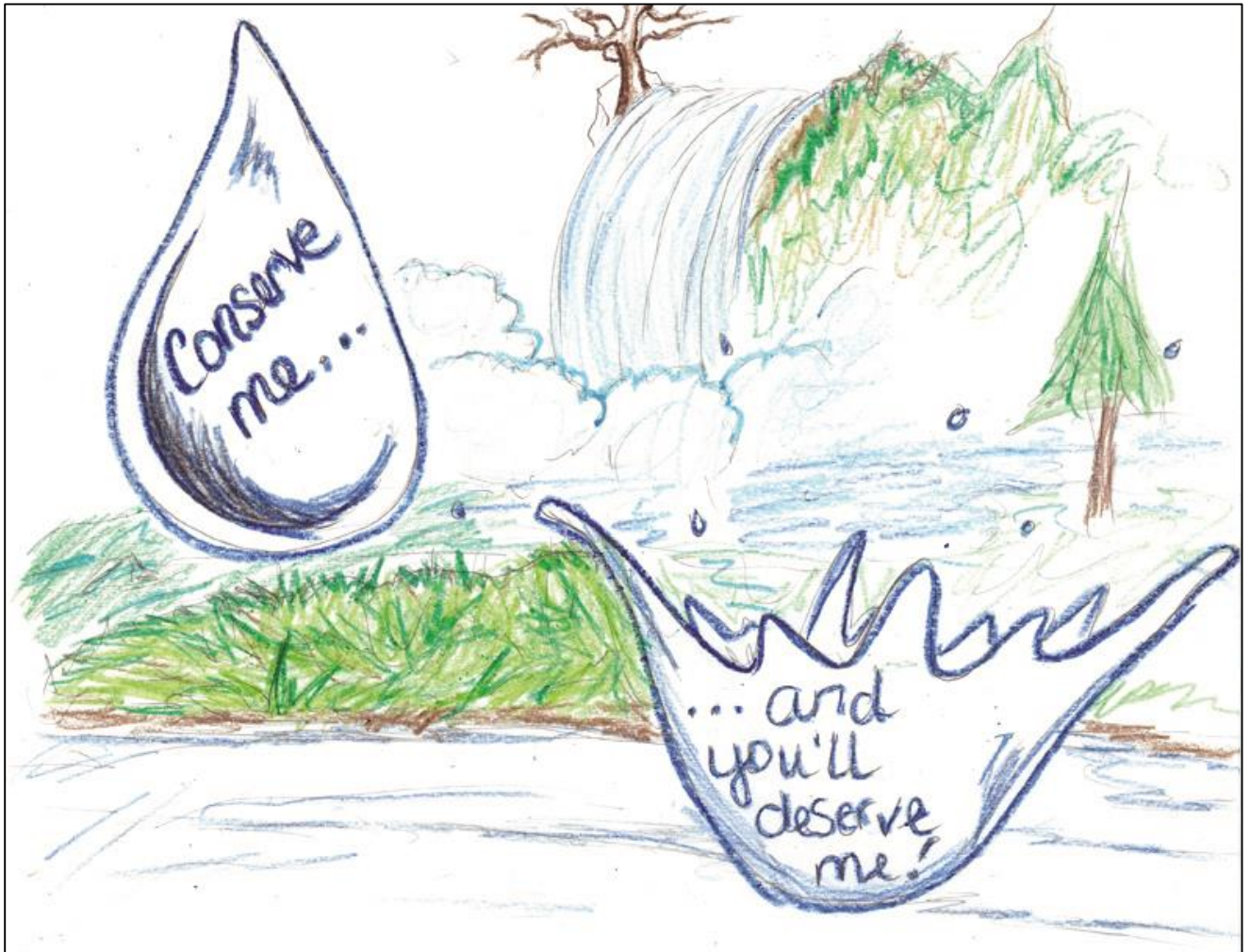


## TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

### Press Clippings

May 11, 2016 – June 8, 2016



*Desiree Villareal (Lincoln Park Elementary School)  
2010 Poster Art Contest - Second Place, Grades 4-6*



# TMWA hire, promotions

On the page, a slider with all photos.

Zimmerman

Expand Photo

Enloe

Expand Photo

Gebhardt

Expand Photo

Kleiber

- [◀](#)
- 4 of 4 images
- [▶](#)

John Zimmerman has joined the staff at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), while John Enloe, Andy Gebhardt, and Levi Kleiber have been promoted by the organization.

Zimmerman was named water resources manager.

He previously practiced law for more than nine years with the firm Parsons Behle & Latimer in Reno, specializing primarily in water law.

Zimmerman earned his law degree from the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas as well as master's and bachelor's degree in resource economics from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Enloe was named director of natural resources planning and management. He takes over the position from John Erwin, who is retiring.

Enloe, who has more than 30 years experience in water planning, permitting, design, project implementation, operations and business management, previously served as TMWA's operational strategies manager.

He earned a bachelor's of science degree in environmental engineering.

Gebhardt has been named director of customer relations. He replaces Kim Mazeret, who is retiring.

Gebhardt has worked for TMWA and TMWA's predecessor for nearly 29 years, starting as a meter reader. He also served as plant operator and working foreman in the water department. In 2002 he joined the customer service department as a conservation administrator and has been promoted from administrator, supervisor and manager.

Kleiber was named business information systems manager.

He has been with TMWA since 2007 and has served as GIS analyst and manager of lands, mapping and records.

Kleiber earned a bachelor's of science degree in geography.

**PEOPLE**



LaMay



Thompson



Plotts



Zimmerman



Enloe



Gebhardt



Kleiber



Zager



Keillor



McAlpine



Vineyard



Fennell

**CHARMAINE LAMAY**

Charmaine LaMay has joined Ticor Title Company as a residential sales executive. LaMay, has more than 20 years experience in sales, marketing, public relations and management in the Reno/Sparks area.

**MONICA THOMPSON**

Monica Thompson has been hired as digital content director for the Estipona Group. Thompson previously served at the City of Reno as digital engagement manager, where she launched the redesigned [reno.gov](http://reno.gov) website. She also worked as global community manager for AlwaysOnVacation – a vacation rental company, and communications manager for the Northern Nevada International Center.

Her social media campaigns and websites have earned her awards from the American Marketing Association, Vision Internet and Graphic Design USA, to name a few. She also received the Charles G. and Cornelia L. Murray Scholarship Award for Outstanding Work in Interactive Journalism.

Thompson earned a bachelor's of arts degree in social science with an emphasis in public policy and a minor in women's studies from the University of Newcastle, Australia and a master's degree in interactive journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**SHAYLA PLOTT**

Shayla Plotts has joined Micone Staffing as its operations and recruiting manager. Plotts previously worked in the healthcare industry. She attended Truckee Meadows Community College.

**TMWA HIRE, PROMOTIONS**

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Kleiber earned a bachelor's of science degree in geography.

**KEVIN FABINO**

Kevin Fabino has been named development services director for South Lake Tahoe.

Fabino, who has more than 30 years experience at the local government level, previously worked at the City of Reedley, where he led day-to-day activities of the planning, building and engineering divisions, and economic development program.

**CRAIG ZAGER  
RICHARD KEILLOR**

Craig Zager, a real estate agent in the Zephyr Cove office of Coldwell Banker Select Real Estate has achieved the status as the number-one producing sales agent in the State of Nevada for Coldwell Banker.

It was the sixth year in a row Zager earned the honor.

Zager also has been the highest producing agent from Glenbrook to Stateline on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe according to the Northern Nevada Regional Multi-Listing-Service.

Richard Keillor, a sales associate in the Reno office of Coldwell Banker Select has attained the International President's Circle award, distinguishing him as one of the elite group of top Coldwell Banker associates.

**KATHY MCALPINE  
RICCI VINEYARD**

Kathy McAlpine and Ricci Vineyard, senior loan officers in the Reno office of Mason-McDuffie Mortgage, have been named members of the company's 2016 President's Club at its leadership conference.

McAlpine also received an award for closing the most transactions (120) across the entire company.

**MARY  
ELIZABETH MCCAFFREY**

Mary Elizabeth McCaffrey, A Reno resident, is among the inaugural graduating class of St. Francis School of Law, the nation's first not-for-profit, 100 percent online law school.

McCaffrey was a class valedictorian and graduated summa cum laude.

**NANCY FENNEL**

Nancy Fennell, president of Dickson Realty, has been named as a 2016 inductee into the Nevada Women's Fund Hall of Fame.

Fennell will be honored for her philanthropic efforts, including her work for nonprofits

including the Nevada Museum of Art, the Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the University of Nevada, the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, and Thunderbird Lodge.

Fennell will receive the honor at the Fund's 25th Annual Salute to Women of Achievement Event on May 26 at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno.

**STAN THOMAS  
CHRIS AULT, JR.**

Stan Thomas, executive vice president of marketing and competitive expansion and Chris Ault, Jr., business development manager for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada (EDAWN), attended the Area Development Site Meeting in Las Vegas this month.

**CAI CREDENTIAL DESIGNATIONS**

Northern Nevada individuals who earned the Community Associations Institute's Nevada Chapter's community manager credentials were:

PCAM (Professional Community Association Manager): Dawn Osterode, Associate Sierra North; and Marlina Short, FirstService Residential;

AMS (Association Management Specialist): Julianne Kaufman, FirstService Residential;

CCAL (College of Community Association Lawyers): Gayle Kern, Kern & Associates, Ltd.

CMCA (Certified Management of Community Associations): Betty Meeks, Opus 1 Community Management, LLC, Sarah McCalla, FirstService Residential.

**NCET BOARD**

Matt Fisher, Toni Quiruz and Chuck Sweeney have been re-elected to one-year terms on the board of directors of the Nevada Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology (NCET).

Fisher was re-elected as co-vice president of special projects.

He works as product visionary at Traker Design Research, an industrial design studio in Reno. He has worked nearly 30 years as a product designer and holds eight patents.

Fisher earned a bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and a master's degree from San Jose State University.

Quiruz was re-elected as vice president of membership.

She has worked 11 years as marketing and sales director for Digiprint Corp. in Reno and held a position in graphic design and pre-press operations at Sierra Packaging and Converting Corp.

Sweeney was re-elected as co-vice president of special projects.

He serves as a business and performance coach and previously worked as a senior executive with 30 years of administrative, marketing, and field operations management experience with the New York Life Insurance Co.

Sweeney earned a bachelor's degree in operations management from St. Francis University in Pennsylvania.

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## Some trees better than others in northern Nevada



By Terri Russell |

Posted: Fri 2:08 PM, May 13, 2016 |

Updated: Fri 2:23 PM, May 13, 2016



**RENO, Nev. (KOLO)** - With four years of drought, your **landscaping** might be in serious need of an upgrade. Trees may play heavily in your decision, especially if they didn't fare too well with lack of water. One local arborist talks about the best trees that can tolerate northern Nevada's ever-changing weather.

You can call him our local Lorax, the Dr. Suess character that advocates for **trees**. Arborist Dale Carlon has lived in northern Nevada his whole life and talks of trees as if they were lifetime companions.

"I learned to climb a **tree** like this, London Plane, a lot of folks call them Sycamores," says Carlon. A great tree, he says, a great tree for northern Nevada.

"Drought-tolerant, practically bug free, grows fast, and provides a lot of shade," he says. "You know there aren't a lot of trees that flower like this and live in our area."

He is pointing to another of his favorites, the Horse Chestnut. Like the Sycamore, it grows fast and is drought and bug-resistant.

"This is called a Sunburst Locust. This is the really brilliant yellow one. There's also a green one called Shade Master. The one great thing about these guys, they are very drought-tolerant," says Carlon as he shows us a Locust Tree.

About town, Carlon says you can see results of the drought on certain trees, popular trees like Aspen.

"You know they make this wonderful sound," he says. "If they don't receive an adequate amount of water. Yes they will get started but as time goes on, you will see them decline like this," says Carlon as he points to dead branches and no leaves in the center of the Aspen.

The Birch tree, Carlon says, is another favorite that just can't handle the dry conditions in northern Nevada. They too require a lot of water, and when that breaks down, the Birch can become infested with the Bronze Birch Borer.

"And those entry holes will look like the letter 'd' laying on its side," says Carlon.

An investment in the right tree, Carlon says, can save in cooling costs, and lawn watering if placed in the right spot.

Don't believe the old wives tale the roots will grow down to the water table. You'll have to water the tree yourself. But the rewards of raising a great tree will never leaf you.

Carlon works for Truckee Meadows Water Authority and does free consultation. You can contact him at 775-287-1732 or you can email him at [dalecarlon@yahoo.com](mailto:dalecarlon@yahoo.com).

# Fernley OKs water talks

 Jessica Garcia, [jigarcia@rgj.com](mailto:jigarcia@rgj.com) 7:05 p.m. PDT May 13, 2016



(Photo: Getty Images)

The Fernley City Council at its May 4 meeting approved a motion that allows staff to proceed with a counterproposal to the Bureau of Reclamation after two days of negotiations on water storage costs were unfruitful with this year's passage of the Truckee River Operating Agreement.

Paul Taggart, special city attorney for Fernley, reported at the May 4 council meeting that the city made a proposal for \$2.13 per acre foot of storage of Truckee River water in upstream reservoirs, an initial total cost of about \$21,000 per year, but the bureau would not lower its cost below \$12 per acre foot, or about \$187,500 per year.

He did report progress, however, in other areas, including determining whether the contract would operate according to water year or fiscal year, and the city was able to choose when it could make its annual payment. It decided upon Nov. 1 to Oct. 31 as the timeline for setting its contract.

Taggart also said the discussion covered administrative costs incurred by the Bureau for the length of the contract, estimated at about five to 10 years.



RENO GAZETTE JOURNAL

No agreement yet on city water storage

(<http://www.rgj.com/story/news/local/leader-courier/2016/04/26/agreement-yet-city-water-storage/83572932/>)

This week, more talks slated to take place May 9 and 16 were to address the government's liability in the event of spillage.

"TROA provides a mechanism for water to spill on certain lands, and we understand that and that is part of the deal with TROA, and if the government spills water accidentally or intentionally, we've inserted some language," Taggart told the council.

Another issue is payment for contract renewal. TROA storage for Fernley would be available for 40 years with a second term at the 41st year. Taggart said Fernley would not be required to renegotiate except on price, which is important when figuring in potential price adjustments or increases with the Consumer Price Index. The same basis of negotiations that had been used for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority also was used for Fernley.

"We would like to hammer out the price and we want there to be clear statement so we wouldn't have to renegotiate that in 40 years," he said.

Councilwoman Shari Whalen suggested finding additional local support.

"Why not ... ask for friends and allies to help us to convince the community that we're right?" Whalen said. "We have two options: a counterproposal or ask that the methodology be altered."

Mayor Roy Edgington said he sat in the audience during the negotiations in April and said it was a challenge to follow along with the talks. The water is vital for the city's development, but the council

"Tahoe is already paid for, Donner was a big loss for us," he said. "One of the problems I have is the replacement cost doesn't make sense for us. It'd be different if they put the money in the bank, and when it fails, it's there, but that's not what they're going to do. Why are we paying for fisheries? I think we should stand up and say no."

Councilman Cal Eilrich also supported the motion.

"I've placed a lot of faith in promises, but I'm sending to Reid's office that he would look out for Fernley on this," Eilrich said. "It's big leap of faith for me. I'm counting on Sen. (Harry) Reid's office and make sure it gets done in our favor."

Read or Share this story: <http://on.rgj.com/1TfGURS>

# Our view: Reservoirs full, but keep conserving water

The Opinion of the RGJ Editorial Board 9:10 a.m. PDT May 15, 2016



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A couple crosses Second Street in downtown Reno during a rainy day last month. All of the precipitation doesn't mean we can stop using water responsibly. (Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ) Buy Photo

Conflicting messages about Reno's drought situation abound.

They should not become an excuse to slide back to bad water conservation habits. The need to continue to use water responsibly can easily get lost in the back and forth of recent news reports.

The U.S. drought monitor currently rates Reno as living under D3 drought intensity. This means the drought here is "extreme."

That is only one stage better than D4 "exceptional" drought intensity, which we faced last year.

Yet it was announced that residents no longer need to cut usage by 10 percent. This is what the Truckee Meadows Water Authority had requested the past two years — and Reno-Sparks responded by cutting water use 20 percent in 2015.

TMWA says extra conservation measures are not needed because it is already storing all of the water it legally can in its drought reserves, and that it does not expect to tap into those reserves this year. Neither will the water utility implement increased educational conservation efforts again this year nor will it have higher levels of enforcement for water wasters, as had been the case.

Winter precipitation reports were the source of some less than inspiring news. It may have seemed like a lot of snow fell this winter, but Truckee River Basin statistics by the National Resources Conservation Service show snowpack levels for 2016 fell basically at the median. The relatively wet winter was not enough to cancel out meager snowpacks in previous years.

Meanwhile, good news comes from TMWA's recently unveiled online "tracker." It shows how much water is being held in upstream drought reserves. The amount is about double what it was 20 years ago.

This change stems largely from the complex Truckee River Operating Agreement. Finalized in December, the pact allows TMWA to store more water, alters when water must be released into the river, and inspired full acquisition of Donner Lake to use for Reno-Sparks drought emergencies.

Obtaining both halves of Donner Lake revealed another twist. Because of that acquisition, if the region has another drought year like 2015 (the worst on record) but it lasts for two decades, TMWA projects it would nonetheless have twice as much water stored in drought reserves in 2035 than it did last year.

Growth does not seem to be a concern either, at least not water-wise. Agricultural water rights still exist in the region that can be converted to less thirsty residential and business water rights. For this and other reasons, TMWA says it can easily accommodate the population boom.

And yet we live in the high desert. Water is more precious here than in most of the country.

Good planning and good policies have Reno-Sparks sitting well for water resources, unlike many places in the West.

Still, it remains important to water responsibly. A good rule of thumb to live by, regardless of drought status: Don't use more water than you need.

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# VIDEO: Water Main Break on McCarran and Lakeside

MAY 14, 2016 BY [THISISRENO](#) [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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A water main break on Lakeside Drive an McCarran Boulevard early this morning left some customers without water.

According to a tip and video received by a reader, “a sinkhole swallowed the sign at Lakeridge Tennis Club leaving the police baffled upon arriving at the scene. This report occurred shortly after the flooding began so the details have yet to be thoroughly investigated.”

A representative from Truckee Meadows Water Authority said 12 homes are without water.

Two crews are working on it, and it should be fixed today, said TMWA’s Andy Gebhart.

Note: adult language in the video.



# Experts point to aging infrastructure as main culprit of lead in water systems

By Sinclair Broadcast Group Tuesday, May 17th 2016

WASHINGTON (Sinclair Broadcast Group) — Federal laws ending the use of lead in new pipes were enacted nearly 20 years ago - so why are situations like the water crisis in Flint, Michigan still taking place today?

"This was a man-made disaster. This was avoidable. This was preventable," said President Obama when he visited Flint in early May.

**RELATED | Obama tells Flint residents: 'I've got your back,' drinks filtered city water**

00:00  
00:00

"The only good thing that may come out of Flint is that we start to become laser focused on needing to do something so that our children are protected," said North Carolina's Republican Rep. Mark Meadows.

It's a statement easier said than done, as communities across the nation deal with lead contamination in their water supply.

Experts point out that while testing is the first step in combating the problem, **the aging infrastructure in the U.S. is the main culprit.**

While water utility may test clean for lead, the pipes leading from those systems to homes and public buildings can be decades old and still contain the toxic metal.

"We need to start investing in improving and having infrastructure that is adequate for this century. It's not something that we'll be able to do in one day," said Ana Navas-Acien, a public health professor for Johns Hopkins University.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, gaps between the spending of local and federal spending on water utilities widens after 2011. The Budget Control Act capped federal spending limits that year.

As states and local governments continue to shell out more than 90 percent of the costs - billions of dollars each year - the CBO points out that the bulk of that spending has been sucked up by maintenance, not new infrastructure.

That leaves those in hard-hit areas with few options of recourse to get lead out of their water systems.

"The only answer is to sue those makers and those users of the lead pipes when people are injured. 3:50 And it's a shame that we have to resort to that," said Bill Snape, an environmental law professor at American University.

Residents in Chicago have filed litigation to force their city to remove lead pipes.

Madison Wisconsin has already done so - **at nearly \$20 million in costs, in a 15-year lifespan.**

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# Good News: Workshop details keeping trees alive in drought

Staff report 5:50 p.m. PDT May 15, 2016



University of Nevada Cooperative Extension offers “Trees and Drought” on Friday. The workshop will cover how to make trees more drought resilient.(Photo: Photo provided)

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service will present a free “Trees and Drought” workshop Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will be held in at the Washoe County Cooperative Extension Office, 4955 Energy Way in Reno.

Classes will provide information on current threats to trees, how trees respond to water stress and strategies to make our community trees more drought resilient.

“Nevada is the driest state in the United States,” said Heidi Kratsch, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension horticulture specialist. “We live in a desert and are always in a drought. Water conservation is always important in Nevada.”

According to Kratsch, trees may exhibit visible damage from drought in the short term. In the long term, they may reduce flower and fruit production and eventually die if damage is severe.

Drought-stressed trees are also less able to protect themselves and become more susceptible to invasion by insects or disease.

Topics include:

- 9 a.m.: Where does your water come from, taught by Customer Relations Director Andy Gebhardt, with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.
- 10 a.m.: Native trees for drought-prone areas, taught by Landscape Horticulture Specialist Larry Rupp, Utah State University Cooperative Extension.
- 1 p.m.: Trees, soils and mulch, taught by Water Conservation and Turfgrass Specialist Kelly Kopp, Utah State University Cooperative Extension.
- 2:15 p.m.: Good and bad plant choices for wildfire-prone areas, taught by Kratsch.
- 3 p.m.: Panel discussion about Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper certification for Nevada.

The workshop provides certificates of attendance and International Society of Arboriculture Continuing Education Units. Register online at <http://treesanddrought2016.eventbrite.com>. Participants must register by Tuesday.

For more information, visit [www.growyourownnevada.com](http://www.growyourownnevada.com). Persons in need of special accommodations or assistance should call at least three days prior to the scheduled event.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension is the College of the University of Nevada, Reno that is engaged in every Nevada county, presenting research-based knowledge to address critical community needs. It is a county-state-federal partnership providing practical education to people, businesses and communities. For more information on its programs, visit [www.unce.unr.edu](http://www.unce.unr.edu).

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## TMWA Says Water Outlook Is Good

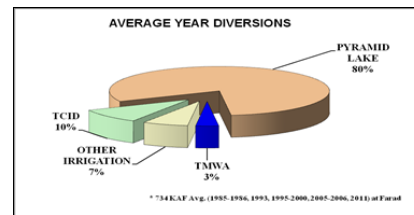
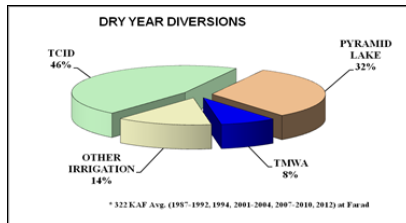
Posted: May 17, 2016 4:08 PM PDT <em class="wnDate">Tuesday, May 17, 2016 7:08 PM EDT</em> Updated: May 17, 2016 9:44 PM PDT  
<em class="wnDate">Wednesday, May 18, 2016 12:44 AM EDT</em>

By Paul Nelson

[Email](#)

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[producers@ktvn.com](mailto:producers@ktvn.com)



The Truckee Meadows Water Authority says this year's water supply is like night and day, compared to last year. Snowpack numbers were a little above average in the Sierra, and that has given the water supply a chance to rebound, after four years of drought.

"Basically, everything in the system will fill except Stampede, but that's going to make a nice recovery," Bill Hauck, TMWA Senior Hydrologist said. "Tahoe is still climbing, expect maybe another foot."

Lake Tahoe is nearly nine inches above its natural rim. Hauck says that will allow normal flows in the Truckee River, which are expected through September. The water situation shows how quickly the water supply can change. Last May, the Truckee River flows were already well-below average.

"We had 100% snowpack, this year, and that's what happens," Andy Gebhardt, TMWA Director of Customer Relations said. "We rely on Mother Nature."

The additional water means customers are not being asked to reduce their outdoor water usage by 10%. They are encouraged to practice responsible conservation, including watering on their designated days. People with even numbered addresses can run their sprinklers on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Residents with even numbered addresses can water their lawns on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. Nobody is allowed to water on Mondays. Gebhardt expects residents to be cautious with their watering habits, and even thinks many will continue last year's cutbacks.

"If you cut back on your watering, last year, and your lawn looked good and you saved money, then why are you going to turn it back up? If you ripped that lawn out and put a patio in or put a barbeque pit in, you're not going to rip that out and put lawn back in," Gebhardt said.

Some Reno residents agreed, saying they plan on saving water, despite the wet winter.

"I know I will," Dan Lukkari said. "We live in a high desert, so you should conserve."

Experts say that is not necessary though. TMWA has only had to use drought reserve in four years since 1985. More drought reserves were used last year, than any year on record. This year is much different. Thanks to the weather and new river management guidelines, more water is being stored than ever before. TMWA recently purchased the rights to all of Donner Lake's storage, and can store 65% more water than they did last year. In fact, TMWA cannot store any more water than it already is.

"We're storing everything we possibly can upstream, right now, for next year because we don't know what next year is going to bring," Hauck said.

Hauck says Truckee Meadows residents are not only in great shape for this year, but also for next year. TMWA uses 3-8% of the Truckee River's water, but residents are still encouraged to use water, responsibly.

"We want to be good neighbors, just like everybody else," Gebhardt said. "So, this benefits the downstream agriculture users, Pyramid Lake. It benefits everybody when we have good snowpack like this."

# Scientists Are Controlling the Weather

*Ten or so percent of it, anyway*

By: David Ferry

May 20, 2016



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Cloud seeding involves releasing silver iodide, a naturally occurring compound, into storm clouds. Photo: Mike Cavaroc/TandemStock

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**Frank McDonough, a life-long snowboarder and atmospheric scientist, has five generators strategically situated along the Sierra crest. Metal and boxy with little chimneys, they look like meat smokers at the top of the world. If they do their job, they'll help bring snow back to California during its historic drought.**

“We’re being funded to try to put a little extra water in the Truckee River,” says McDonough, a research meteorologist with the Desert Research Institute in Reno. With the flip of a switch down the mountain at DRI headquarters, the generators come to life and start belching white smoke into the air. “We’re trying to make extra snow pack in the Tahoe Basin,” McDonough says, “so that water will end up coming down through this area to be available for recreation and human uses.”

McDonough is just the latest in the long line of humans who have tried to manipulate the weather to improve the environment. But the difference between the work done in the Sierras this winter and, say, rain dancing, is that McDonough and the DRI have seen results: using modern “cloud seeding” technology—which involves releasing silver iodide, a naturally occurring compound, into storm clouds—the team can compel storms to dump anywhere from five to 15 percent more snow. In the Sierras, that translates to more water in the summer and more powder at Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley in the winter.

This is a big deal. For the last 60 years, onlookers have snickered at weather modification programs in the U.S. while conspiracy theorists have worked themselves into fits over the what weather scientists are really doing. (Try setting up a Google Alert for weather modification news: there are an impressive number of forums dedicated to discussing the belief that the government is spraying chemicals from airplanes, resulting in “chemtrails” in the atmosphere.) But, after years of doubt, studies are showing that cloud seeding does indeed work. A seminal ten-year study in Wyoming, published last year, looked at regions where cloud seeding was deployed versus nearby areas where storms were left au natural. The results: up to 15 percent more snow in the seeded areas. (The results shouldn’t be a surprise to ski resorts—Colorado’s Breckenridge and Winter Park already help fund regional regional cloud seeding efforts, and Vail has been working on seeding since the 1970s.)

The drive to re-engineer our planet—to make it work for us or undo the damage we’ve caused—is a tempting, contentious prospect. Although it’s been worrying scientists for a generation now, modern technology allows us to geo-engineer different aspects of the environment—from dispersing iron into the ocean to boost plankton populations to capturing carbon from the air with huge towers and building an artificial mountain in Dubai to promote rain.

But in many ways, cloud seeding is the original geo-engineering. The technique was discovered by Bernard Vonnegut (brother of author Kurt) at the General Electric Research Lab 70 years ago. In the 1940s, researchers in their lab, in Schenectady, New York, were busy creating clouds inside a sealed atmospheric laboratory, trying induce them to drop rain. The team knew that dry ice dropped into clouds below-freezing temperatures led to the formation of thousands of ice crystals. Vonnegut, an esteemed atmospheric scientist, discovered that the compound silver iodide, normally found in trace amounts in minerals, worked even better and that when added to freezing clouds, the gray dust would lead to increased snowfall. A decade later, Vonnegut’s realization led to a cottage industry that still exists today, populated by cloud-seeding companies that contract with local governments to fly planes loaded with silver iodide into storm clouds and ground-based projects like the DRI’s, which burns silver iodide in its generators atop the Sierras.

But, to be fair to the conspiracy theorists of the world, weather modification hasn’t only been used add water to irrigation ditches. In the ‘60s and ‘70s, the U.S. government spent over \$20 million on a classified program called Operation Popeye aimed at modifying the weather above Vietnam. The goal, declassified documents show, was increased flooding along the Ho Chi Minh

Trail to disrupt North Vietnamese supply lines. To this day, weather modification inspires such dystopian dread that Pacific Gas and Electric, a large utility in northern California that operates ground-based cloud seeding generators in the Sierra foothills to both increase hydroelectric power and benefit a local irrigation district, has [a 78-page document](#) dedicated to helping answer community questions on the project. One constant concern: that seeding clouds in the mountains “robs” the foothills and valleys of water—something Joe Busto of the Colorado Water Conservation Board flatly denies. “It’s folklore,” Busto says in an email. “Several studies of the impact of cloud seeding downwind of the intended target areas have indicated that the precipitation is typically increased not decreased.”

In spite of the Orwellian overtones, the last five years have been booster seasons for the weather modifiers as widespread drought convinced municipalities to [pay for any extra water they could get](#). California has at least a dozen [ongoing cloud seeding programs](#), from big players the city of Los Angeles to small county water department in places like Santa Barbara County. According to PG&E, cloud seeding is taking place in 11 states across the west and Canada; in Colorado, at least two projects look to [dump more snow on ski resorts](#). According to [a 2013 report](#) from the California Department of Water Resources, “precipitation enhancement” technologies added about 400,000 acre feet of water—enough to serve 600,000-1,000,000 houses—to the state’s watery coffers that year. In total, the efforts upped the state’s runoff by about 4 percent.

For their project above Lake Tahoe, the Desert Research Institute estimates they’ve added between 15,000 and 17,000 acre feet of water to the snowpack—enough water for up to 45,000 houses in the region. The Truckee Meadows Water Authority, the local water district, pays DRI about \$200,000 a year for the work and John Enloe, director of Natural Resources Planning and Management for water authority, says the project is definitely worth the money. “In years like 2015, every bit of precipitation we could get was important,” Enloe says.

An extra five-to-eight percent in the reservoir is handy these days, but what do the Truckee Meadow Water Authority customers think? “I would say most are probably not aware we even do it,” Enloe says.

## Sparks Homeless Camps Rise, Despite New Ordinance

Posted: May 20, 2016 5:03 PM PDT Updated: May 20, 2016 6:11 PM PDT

By Paul Nelson

CONNECT



The City of Sparks is dealing with a rise in illegal camps, along the Truckee River. City officials say the problem has been growing in the past year, after Reno removed homeless people who were camping along the river. Many of them moved their tents to the east, into Sparks.

That caused the Sparks City Council to pass an ordinance that prohibits camping along the river. People who disobey usually receive a verbal or written warning, up to physical removal.

Christian Montgomery is a homeless man, spending his day at an encampment, just east of Rock Blvd. He says he has been warned and even arrested.

"Just hanging out here, I could go to jail for it, even though my stuff is downtown under a bridge," Montgomery said.

Sparks officials say citations and arrests are a last resort. Since the ordinance passed, March 28, the City has had a hard time enforcing it without violating people's constitutional rights.

"It's a problem. We recognize it's a problem but we simply cannot enforce an ordinance when there is nowhere else for these individuals to go," Adam Mayberry, Community Relations Manager for the City of Sparks said.

Residents have complained to the City about the homeless encampments. Some say they create environmental and health hazards because of human waste, litter, and used hypodermic needles.

The camps are normally right next to a popular bike path.

"Certainly, there are people that are concerned for their safety, when they're down there," Mayberry said. "Many have stopped going down there because they don't like the sights, the smells."

Sparks teams up with Reno and Washoe County to fund the Community Assistance Center, located on Record Street in downtown Reno. Last week, The

Washoe County Board of Commissioners approved more than \$2 million for additional shelter for the homeless.

"We have an overflow shelter that used to operate, strictly in the winter months. That has turned into a year-round operation," Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager said.

Mayberry says the homeless issue in Sparks does not have an easy fix. He says it will take an effort between the regional partners and service providers to improve the situation.

"It's not going to be solved by merely arresting or kicking these homeless individuals from their camp," Mayberry said.

Schiller says homelessness is rising because of population growth that is increasing the cost of housing for residents, including seniors.

"When average rent is approaching \$900 and you're on fixed incomes, many of them go down that road and struggle, and then the mental health and the substance abuse tends to always be an issue," Schiller said.

Substance abuse poses a problem for the shelters provided.

"If a homeless individual isn't sober, they won't be admitted," Mayberry said. "So, there lies a far greater problem."

There are services available, however. Crossroads is a program that offers transitional housing with services, that require drug testing. It saves the community \$7 million in jail booking fees.

"What it does is it reduces jail costs and then at the same time, provides an ability to have independence," Schiller said.

The Sparks City Council will discuss its financial obligations to the Community Assistance Center, next week.

## Downtown Truckee pocket park gets \$25,000 grant as work begins

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TRUCKEE, Calif. — Mountain Area Preservation was the recent recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Truckee River Fund in support of the Trout Creek Pocket Park, located at Bridge and Jibboom streets in Downtown Truckee.

“This grant is tied to the extensive water quality improvements proposed at the site, including permeable pavers and a drainage system designed to treat run-off before it enters Trout Creek,” according to a MAP press release.

The Truckee River Fund was established in 2004 by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. Truckee River Fund grants are primarily used for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed, according to MAP.

The Trout Creek Pocket Park and Restoration Initiative has been part of the Truckee Downtown Specific Plan’s vision since 1997.

The project is expected to revitalize and restore an urban natural resource and neglected landscape by creating a green open space and park setting for visitors and locals to enjoy along the creek’s edge.

MAP broke ground in early May on the park, and work should be done this summer.

To learn more or to donate, contact Nikki Riley at 530-582-6751 or [Nikki@mapf.org](mailto:Nikki@mapf.org) to contribute to the Friends of Trout Creek.

## Should lobbyists register, disclose clients in Reno?



[Anjeanette Damon](mailto:adamon@rgj.com), adamon@rgj.com 7 a.m. PDT May 24, 2016



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Lobbyist Garrett Gordon talks to Reno City Councilwoman Neoma Jardon during a break at a Council meeting in 2015.(Photo: Anjeanette Damon, RGJ)Buy Photo

Last year, when the Reno City Council took up the question of whether to hand its hospital service and provider contracts solely to Renown, the room filled with hospital executives and their lobbyists to fight over the multi-million contracts.

In April, after repeatedly failing to close a deal on leasing a piece of city land while battling public perception problems, The Siegel Group hired well-liked former Sen. Dick Bryan as its lobbyist to work the Reno City Council.

And former Councilwoman Jessica Sferrazza, who ran Mayor Hillary Schieve's campaign, has launched a thriving lobbying business since leaving office, representing a client on almost every major issue before the Reno City Council recently.

But right now much of that influence peddling can happen behind the scenes, with little to no sunlight. Unless a lobbyist chooses to testify publicly on behalf of a client—and often they

choose not to—the public may never know who is being paid by whom to convince the Council to vote a certain way.

Take for instance, Uber lobbyist John Griffin. In November 2014, when the company was in a protracted legal fight with the state of Nevada, Griffin quietly worked with Schieve to bring forward a pro-Uber resolution. The resolution had no force of law; it simply trumpeted the Council's support for the company. Although Griffin sat in the audience when [the Council passed the resolution](#), he never testified publicly on the measure.

That could happen because unlike at the Nevada Legislature, the city of Las Vegas and Clark County, local lobbyists are not required to register with the city of Reno, list their clients, disclose how much they spend lobbying council members or list any potential conflicts of interest they may carry.

On Wednesday, however, the Reno City Council will consider a new ordinance that would change that.

It's the second time Schieve has tried to pass an ordinance requiring lobbyists to register and publicly list their clients. When she tried as a council member, under former Mayor Bob Cashell's tenure, she failed to win enough support.

"I have always felt disclosure is needed to be more transparent, which wasn't common practice under the last Council," Schieve said. "But times have changed drastically with our growing economy, so now more than ever the public should know who lobbies Council and for whom."

Schieve said she would also like to see the lobbyist registration list be posted live on the city's website, similar to what [the Nevada Legislature does](#).

Under the proposed ordinance, lobbyists would have to register with the city clerk and keep their client list current. They also would have to wear a lobbyist badge whenever they visit city hall.

Local lobbyists interviewed by the Reno Gazette-Journal on Monday were largely supportive of the ordinance, remarking that they have to register at the Legislature and in Las Vegas anyway.

"It's not burdensome and I commend the mayor for bringing additional transparency in her term," said Garrett Gordon, a lobbyist who represents developers and builders among others. "It's no big deal. We have to do it every where else."

Gordon ran into problems last legislative session when he informally worked on a measure that would have made the regional planning board advisory. Gordon's clients included both the Washoe County Commission, which at the time was openly antagonistic with the planning board, and a developer whose project had been turned down by the board.

Although Gordon said he was always "crystal clear" about who he represented, some were not always sure which client of his was pushing the potential change in state law when he worked to win the support of the Reno and Sparks city councils.



Hillary Schieve, center, celebrates as Jessica Sferrazza, left, reads the mayoral election results at the SoDo Restaurant on Tuesday night Nov. 4, 2014. On the right is Joel Giandalia. (Photo: Andy Barron/RGJ file)

Sferrazza, who said she supported a lobbyist disclosure ordinance when she served on the Council, said such a measure is necessary.

"I'm totally supportive," she said. "I tried to pass it when I was on the Council and didn't have the votes to do it. I think lobbyists should be identified down at city hall."

Fresh off running Schieve's mayoral campaign, Sferrazza is now one of city hall's most prolific lobbyists. She's helped clients win controversial issues before the Council, including approval for [a 273-unit housing development in Verdi](#) that is strongly opposed by residents there. Sferrazza helped that same client, Reno Land Development Co. [win approval for the Rancharrah](#) development and obtain money for affordable housing units off Mt. Rose Highway.

Sferrazza also represents Italian Capital, which is in the midst of helping to [relocate low income residents](#) being displaced for a student housing project.

It's the not the first time a mayor's political advisor has worked as a lobbyist. Chris Barrett, who ran Mayor Bob Cashell's campaigns, also lobbied for many high-profile clients with business before the City Council.

Each time one of Sferrazza's clients has business before the Council, Schieve discloses her relationship with Sferrazza.

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59 CONNECT [TWEETLINKEDIN](#) 3 COMMENTEMAILMORE

## Urban whitewater: If you avoid disaster,



With a little practice a beginner can make this fun float trip from west Reno to the Sparks whitewater park in a few hours. Benjamin Spillman/RGJ



[Benjamin Spillman](mailto:bspillman@rgj.com), bspillman@rgj.com 6:48 a.m. PDT May 26, 2016

**With a little practice a beginner can be ready to make this fun river trip through Reno**



Paddlers Ben Spillman, left, and Noah Fraser play in the Sparks Whitewater Park on May 13, 2016. (Photo: Jason Bean)

The first time I tried the Truckee River trip I'm about to recommend to you it was a disaster.

But you should totally try it.

I borrowed an inflatable kayak and joined a group of experienced boaters for an evening trip from Mogul to downtown Reno.

It was my first time paddling on moving water and I had no idea how to balance or steer the boat.

This was a problem.

After hauling our boats to a grassy spot on the southern bank we shoved off into the river. The experienced paddlers figured they would cover the eight miles to downtown within a few hours, which would give them plenty of time to arrive before dark.

It took me about 10 minutes to realize I wouldn't be joining them.

With a chorus of voices shouting advice, it was a struggle just to keep the boat upright. And my inability to steer sent me bumping awkwardly into rocks and other obstacles.

During the first couple miles I tipped the boat at least five times. Climbing back in, attempting to avoid obstacles and getting myself unstuck when I ran aground was exhausting.

By the time we reached the White Fir Street bridge upstream of Mayberry Park I had to stop. My incompetent boating style made me so tired and slow I was putting the rest of the group in jeopardy of making it downtown before dark.

I'm telling you this for two reasons. The first is if you've never floated in moving water before you need to realize it's important to learn some technique before going into the water.

The second is you should know everything you need to quickly learn some technique and have a great day trip on the river is available right here in Reno.

One of the quickest and easiest ways to learn is to get your hands on an inflatable kayak (they're easier to balance and escape from than hard-sided versions) and find a friend who can show you basic paddle strokes and maneuvers. There are also many tutorials online.

With the right gear, proper safety precautions and some practice in the whitewater park downtown you can acquire enough skill to make one of Nevada's excellent water-based day trips, the Truckee River from west Reno to the Sparks whitewater park.

After about six hours of practice in the whitewater park with local paddler Scott Sady and an overnight paddle trip from Truckee to Reno I made another run at the urban whitewater trip.



Paddlers Ben Spillman, left, and Noah Fraser navigate some class II rapids on the Truckee River in the Reno/Sparks area on May 13, 2016. (Photo: Jason Bean)

The experience of the second run is why I'm telling you to give this trip a chance.

We put in at White Fir Street at about 10 a.m. for the 10-mile trip to Sparks.

There's parking on the east side of White Fir south of the river and an easy spot to put boats in beneath the foot bridge.

You'll get into some mild rapids almost immediately. They're enough to tip a careless boater but not so difficult a beginner with a little practice can't handle it.

This sort of water is typical for the entire stretch, with some areas that are smoother and some that are a little faster and bumpier.

About 1.5 miles downstream, after passing beneath Mayberry Drive, boaters will encounter the remnants of an old dam. There are some concrete structures poking up on the right that should be avoided. But if you're competent enough to keep your boat to the left it is passable.



Paddlers Ben Spillman, right, and Noah Fraser take a break while paddling the Truckee River Whitewater Park in downtown Reno on May 13, 2016. (Photo: Jason Bean)

A half-mile downstream from there you'll find another diversion dam with a platform structure on the far left. It's a diversion for the Chalk Bluff treatment facility. When I paddled through I crossed the small dam from the left side of the river without incident.

From there you'll pass under McCarran Boulevard and eventually reach a bend in the river at Oxbow Nature Study area. The water picks up some speed here. For the first part of the bend I stuck to the right but on the second part of the bend I moved a little left to avoid trees.

Once you get past Oxbow and go beneath Keystone Drive you're close to downtown. A good thing about taking a trip through downtown Reno means you can get off the river for a cup of coffee and a snack if you feel like taking a break.

Also downtown you'll pass through the whitewater park which is another chance to play in waves or take a break.



•

Snowmelt has Truckee River rising and Reno Fire Department members are brushing up on swiftwater rescue skills to be ready. Benjamin Spillman/RGJ

From the whitewater park you should be able to easily paddle under the downtown bridges and past Wells Avenue. There are some mild rapids just past Sutro Street then the river smooths again before you get to the Glendale diversion.

The diversion marks the toughest obstacle on the route. Here the river passes over a drop made up of jagged rocks. It's runnable even for relative beginners but you wouldn't want to tip your boat.

If you're not comfortable running it the best portage is river left to access the Truckee River bike path which you can follow under the bridge and put in again after the rocks.

From there it should be smooth sailing to the whitewater park in Sparks, where you can play on the water features and relax.

### **Safety first**

There's inherent risk associated with entering moving water. Take basic safety precautions seriously before and during time on the river.

Assess your skill level: Do you have the fitness and skill to paddle across or against current and recover from a tipped boat in chilly water? If you don't stay out of the river.

Safety gear: At a minimum you should have a personal flotation device that fits properly, sturdy shoes, synthetic clothes to hold heat when wet and block sun and a helmet (bike helmets will do).

Some tips: Find a friend with experience to help you practice skills at the whitewater park, if you fall out of a boat or kayak don't attempt to stand in moving water, it can lead to injury. Instead, with your chest up get your feet pointed downstream and make your way to a safe spot before standing. Grab your boat and paddle if you can

# In her own words: TMWA's Michele Sullivan

Photo here

Northern Nevada Business Weekly: Tell us about your company and the duties of your position:

Michele Sullivan: TMWA (Truckee Meadows Water Authority) delivers water to over 385,000 customers in the Truckee Meadows. As CFO/Treasurer I am responsible for reporting accurate financial information. My finance team prepares the budget and long-range forecasts to ensure TMWA's future financial success. I also monitor our investments and capital structure for compliance with policies approved by our Board of Directors.

NNBW: How did you get into this profession?

Sullivan: I took an accounting class in college because I worked at a law firm in the bookkeeping department. I really liked the class and decided accounting would be a good career choice for me.

NNBW: What do you enjoy most about working in your field?

Sullivan: There is always something new to learn in accounting. Right now I am learning more about public finance and government statutes. I have been in this field for almost 30 years and there are always opportunities for growth.

NNBW: What is the most challenging part about your job?

Sullivan: The most challenging, yet interesting, part of my job is learning all the intricacies involved in the successful operation of a water utility. It's fascinating!

NNBW: What advice would give anyone who wants to get in your profession?

Sullivan: Consider getting your CPA license. I got my CPA license right away out of college and that experience was invaluable. I worked in a large firm and it was a tough few years, but it was a good start to my career.

NNBW: What was the best advice anyone ever gave you either professionally or personally?

Sullivan: To not be too hard on myself when things don't go as planned. Relax, take a breath, and persevere.

NNBW: What kind of specific skills or educational advancement have you found are necessary to be successful in your field?

Sullivan: As a CPA you have to get continuing education every year, but you also need to develop your soft skills. People are important in every job, and you have to make an effort to get to know them, and show that you value their work.

NNBW: Is there one thing that you learned over your career that's become vitally important in your job?

Sullivan: I need to delegate and trust my staff so that everyone feels like they are a part of the team.

NNBW: What was your first job?

Sullivan: I was a weekend maid in a small motel in the town where I went to high school.

NNBW: How do you spend your time away from work?

Sullivan: I like to run and read historical fiction.

NNBW: Do you have a favorite vacation spot?

Sullivan: My favorite vacation spot would be going to Napa Valley with my husband.

NNBW: Is there a place around the world you have never been to that you would like to visit?

Sullivan: There are so many places I would like to visit. Paris would probably be first on my list.

NNBW: Why did you choose a career in northern Nevada? What do you like about living/working here?

Sullivan: I moved to Reno in 1989 when I got engaged to my husband. He is a Reno native, and we have raised our three daughters here. It is a great place for families because there is so much to do, and yet it is small enough that it doesn't take hours out of your day to commute.

*Know someone who would be a candidate for NNBW's 'In Their Own Words' column? Drop us a note at [editor@nnbw.biz](mailto:editor@nnbw.biz) or give us a call at 775-770-1173.*

# 'Slide the City' event loses steam

By Catherine Van |

Posted: Sat 11:26 PM, Jun 04, 2016 |

Updated: Sun 7:41 AM, Jun 05, 2016



**RENO, Nev. (KOLO)** - It's slip and slide to the extreme. Slide the City, Reno's largest water slide block party met with even bigger disappointment.



When it's this hot, there's nothing like cold water and a 1000-foot-long water slide to cool you down.

"Everyone wants to be a kid and have a good time. Unfortunately, it wasn't as good as we had hoped it would be," Joe Barreres, participant.

In just a few minutes of waiting in line, Barreres and his friends were caught in a standstill. The slide's water filter broke. For hours, the Washoe County Health Department shut down the slide while they remedied the 12 thousand gallons of water that was being used.

"We have certain standards we want our water to be held at. We want to be safe for the participants that nobody is getting any waterborne illnesses or anything like that; we just want to make sure the event is 100% safe," said Rachel Thomas, event director.

However, no one seemed to know why there was a holdup in the line.

"There was no one patrolling the lines to tell us what's going on so the people in the back were in the dark," said Jamaal Murray, participant. "I waited for my first ride 2 hours and 15 minutes."

After a while, many just ditched the event altogether.

"I want a refund. We were out there for a while. It was hot, we didn't know what was happening 'til we got up in front," said Barreres. "If they come again next year, I probably won't go."

Event organizers offered participants free slides, but it wasn't enough to make everyone happy.

"There's always little bumps that we run into that we need to make sure that are good to go and we come up with courses of action and unfortunately this was the issue today," said Thomas.