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On The Cover: Ben Martin
Photo ©Scotts Shots Photography







LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Truckee Welcomes Everyone!

By the time you read this, I hope we've had more snowfall and that you've had the chance to enjoy the beauty of winter in Truckee. As we move through the peak winter months and start looking forward to warmer days, some of us are savoring a few more runs on the slopes, while others are heading to lower elevations to enjoy biking and hiking. This season has reminded me how grateful I am to live in a community that welcomes everyone and strives to create an inclusive and inviting place for both residents and visitors and I hope the articles in this issue fill you with that same sense of gratitude.

Truckee Core Values Fund

Do you know about the Truckee Core Values Fund? The Truckee Core Values Fund awarded grants to 23 local nonprofits to host inclusive, meaningful, and engaging events that embody Truckee's spirit and core values. The events reflect values like Healthy Lifestyle, Family-Friendly, Natural Beauty, Community-Minded, and Arts, Culture, and History. Turn to page 10 to learn more about this special program.

Footloose in Truckee

Dancing isn't just about moving to music—it's a full-body workout, a stress reliever, and a way to connect with your community. Research shows that dance boosts cardiovascular health, sharpens the mind, and lifts the spirit—and Truckee is the perfect place to experience all these benefits. Turn to page 6 to learn about all the places you can get your groove on in Truckee.

Two-Sport Days

As the snow melts, opening back up many trails, many of us are still hitting the slopes for spring skiing. Particularly in the spring, there is a growing phenomenon of two-sport days - skiing in the morning then paddling or mountain biking or hiking in the afternoon. Find out more about the variety of spring activities Truckee engages in on page 16.



Exploring Glenshire-Devonshire

Every issue we focus on a different business neighborhood or sector in Truckee and for spring, we explore the neighborhood of Glenshire-Devonshire. Turn to page 20 to read about our easternmost Truckee neighborhood and some of the businesses that Glenshire-Devonshire is home to.

Celebrating and Supporting a Diverse Truckee

Truckee's strength lies in its people, their experiences, stories, and the connections they build. From Pride celebrations and educational programs to cultural preservation and community health initiatives, organizations and individuals are working together to create a town where everyone feels welcome and valued. This commitment to equity and inclusion is shaping Truckee's future. Whether it's breaking barriers for first-generation college students, supporting the Washoe Tribe's cultural revival, or increasing access to resources for underserved communities, these efforts are creating lasting change and you can turn to page 24 to learn more about them.

The Hows and Whys of Truckee - How to Fix It

One thing I love about this town is how hard everyone works to be



sustainable and make the world a better place than they found it. One of the great ways we do that is by giving community members opportunities to fix and repair their things instead of just throwing them away. Turn to page 30 to see how you can become a fix it expert too!

Jessica Penman

President and CEO

Truckee Chamber of Commerce Editor, Truckee Magazine



For details and complete list of events, visit truckee.com/events





Since early civilization, dance has been a vibrant and beloved expression of culture, reflecting traditions passed down through generations. It serves as a form of storytelling, celebration, and social connection, deeply rooted in rituals, festivals, and everyday life. Yet in much of the U.S., unless you're a young adult in the dating world, many people only dance at weddings or holiday parties.

Dancing also offers a powerhouse of benefits for both the body and mind. Yep, it's science—research shows that physically, dancing can improve cardiovascular health, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and help maintain a healthy weight. Mentally, cuttin' the rug can reduce stress, elevate mood, and sharpen brain activities like memory and learning. Not only that, dancing strengthens community ties and can lead to new connections.

Luckily, with our strong arts community, there are many opportunities to dance right here in Truckee; no need to drive to Reno. No matter the season, there's always a place in Truckee to get footloose.

Alibi Ale Works, Truckee Public House

When Alibi hosts a band or DJ, their space transforms into a dancer's paradise. With a top-notch sound system and tons of room to show off your latest moves, it's the perfect spot to groove the night away. They love booking local talent, so it's a great place to check out a band that might be new to the local music circuit and they also host many touring California favorites. Also, join them for line dancing on the last Wednesday of every month! Check out Alibi's schedule at https://alibialeworks.com/truckee-public-house.

Bar of America

Bar of America hosts Rustler's Moon every Thursday evening, and live music with local bands every Friday and Saturday nights, giving you the perfect excuse to sip a cocktail and hit the floor. Enjoy live tunes and late-night eats—food is served until 9:30 p.m.

Moody's Live Music Every Weekend

If you're more into keeping it mellow, Moody's Bistro, Bar & Beats books live music from national and local acts nearly every weekend. While they don't have a dedicated dance floor, often when the band revs up, people create their own in front of the stage and near the bar. Check the chalkboard in the restaurant by the bar to see what's on the music schedule for the weekend. Learn more at https://www.moodysbistro.com.



RMU Live Music Events A

The RMU ski shop/bike shop/bar also moonlights as a place to gather for live musicians, full bands, and DJs. Head up to their main bar to dance with the locals as they jam with their favorite acts. As the weather warms, they open the doors to the carriage house, hosting live entertainment outside. While you're there, check out their latest ski and bike gear. Get there early for fuel; their menu has a great selection of burgers, salads, and more. See what's on the schedule at https://mtnculture.com/pages/rmu-truckee.



Community Arts Center A

In partnership with Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District, Tahoe Truckee School of Music organizes outdoor concerts at the Community Art Center Downtown Park in Truckee. The music and dancing start in the fall, just as TDRPD's summer Music in the Park draws to an end, extending the "locals' summer" fun. Don't miss these family-friendly concerts this fall. A small amphitheater with tiered seating surrounding a dedicated stage and an open dance floor, it's a great spot to meet up with friends, bring the kids, pack a snack, and dance to local bands. Best Pies Pizzeria is often on hand selling slices. Check out the schedule at tahoemusic.net.



Mountain Lotus Yoga Live Music & DJ Events ▲

More than just a yoga studio, Mountain Lotus Yoga brings live bands and DJ dance parties year-round. Their cozy space creates an intimate vibe, perfect for connecting with friends and making new ones. They also have a state-of-the-art sound system and beautiful ambience with soft colored lights and laser light displays. Check their event calendar at https://www.mountainlotusyoga.com/events.

Continued on page 8





Truckee Thursdays **A**

A local summer favorite! Enjoy boot-stomping performances from great local and regional acts every Thursday evening with the community. Grab a drink from the beer garden and dinner at one of the food trucks, and shop from local vendors and merchants before heading to the stage, where everyone dances as the trains roar by. Learn more at https://www.truckeethursdays.com.

Music in the Park Wednesday Concerts

For a summer event dedicated to music, head to Truckee River Regional Park for family-friendly acts. Bring a picnic, a blanket, low chairs, and your dancing shoes. This is a true community event that brings out the young and young at heart. Dance on the grass or down below in front of the stage for family fun and carefree grooves. Details at https://www.tdrpd.org/219/Music-in-the-Park.

In addition to these venues, there are many dance fundraising events throughout the year. You can find details about them on Truckee.com.

Senior Dance Night

Step back in time with traditional dances like the waltz and foxtrot at Senior Dance Night in Kings Beach. Held every first Thursday of the month, this \$5 event includes a lesson, live music, and treats for sale. Find out more at at Truckee.com/Events.

Dance has the power to unite, and every step, twirl, and groove is an expression of individuality and joy. Get out and sway to a slow beat, spin through a high-energy DJ set, or learn new steps in a line dancing class. In Truckee, dance isn't just about moving to the music; it's about creating a space where everyone belongs, regardless of style or skill level. So go ahead—put on your dancing shoes, hit the floor, and feel the liberation of movement that welcomes every body and every beat.







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For more information, please visit KeepTruckeeGreen.org/Bottles









Twenty-three Truckee nonprofits have been awarded funding to ensure one of their inclusive, meaningful, and engaging events can be offered to the community this year! The grants they received are part of Truckee's Core Values Fund, providing local nonprofits with marketing resources they need to expand their reach. The program is a collaborative effort between the Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Town of Truckee, and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation.

Each recipient has demonstrated a commitment to engaging a broad spectrum of the community, from full-time residents to second homeowners, while fostering an inclusive and enriching environment. These events embody the spirit of Truckee's five Core Values: Healthy Lifestyle, Family-Friendly, Natural Beauty, Community-Minded, and Arts, Culture, and History. Grants range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Jessica Penman, President & CEO of the Truckee Chamber of Commerce, said, "We are thrilled to offer the Core Values Funding to support our incredible nonprofit partners. This program is a meaningful way to give back and strengthen the events that truly showcase what makes Truckee such a special community."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Small Town Big Night Out

This is the Rotary Club of
Truckee's signature event for
fundraising to support Truckee/
Tahoe youth, seniors, and
nonprofit organizations. It's familyfriendly and features a Western-style

BBQ, line dancing lessons, a mechanical bull, a costume contest, a raffle that includes a \$10,000 cash prize, whiskey tasting, and so much more. The event, which will be held on November 15 this year, raises money for Truckee Rotary grants that help fill the financial gaps many local organizations face. Since 1978, Truckee Rotary has awarded over \$1.5 million to local nonprofit organizations.



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Truckee Literary Crawl ▲

Celebrate local authors and literary talent at the inaugural Truckee Literary Crawl on April 5 — a free community event featuring authors, writers, and poets reading their works, followed by book signings at locations in downtown Truckee. Don't miss the Open Mic Night later in the evening at Alibi for all literary forms focusing on a dark sky theme: poetry, prose, songwriting, and more. This event is produced by the Tahoe Literary Festival and sponsored by the Truckee Cultural District, Nevada County Arts Council, Truckee Chamber of Commerce, Tahoe Guide, and The Seasoned Sage. Sign up for their newsletter to receive the latest updates at yourtahoeguide.com/tahoe-lit-fest-newsletter.





Seeds, Sips, and Songs ▲

Slow Food Lake Tahoe blends gardening, music, and local food culture at this free, family-friendly afternoon celebrating the upcoming garden season. Get free seeds to kickstart your summer garden while listening to music from Tahoe Truckee School of Music. Get high-altitude gardening tips from successful Truckee gardeners. Bring the kids for engaging activities like a reading circle, seed collection, planting, crafts, and more. All ages and skill levels are welcome to the event that will take place on April 26 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at RMU Truckee. Learn more at slowfoodlaketahoe.org/events-1/seeds-sips-songs.

Upcycled Craft Nights ▶

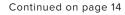
Support the
Humane Society
of Truckee-Tahoe
(HSTT) at this
family-friendly
crafting event with
a sustainable twist!
Join the community
at Thrifty Tails
Boutique for
monthly workshops



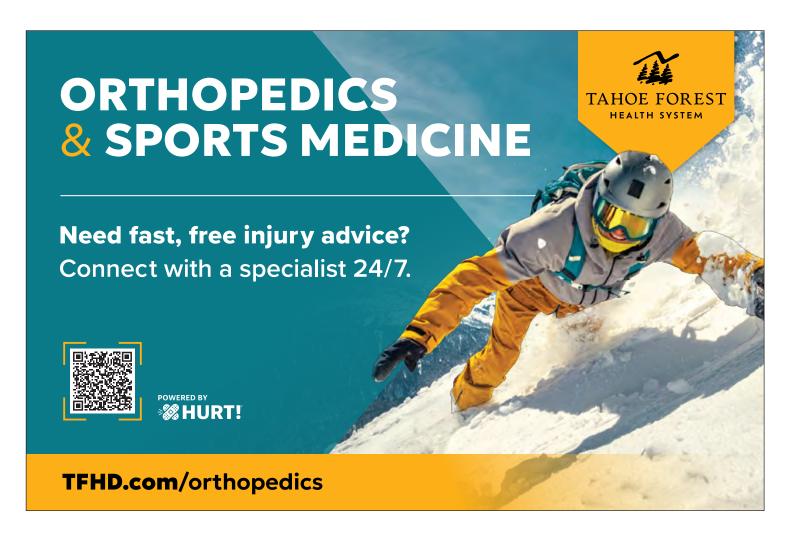
that celebrate upcycled art. Each workshop takes donated items and repurposes them; think mixed media collage, sculpture building, painting, and decorating frames. These workshops support HSTT in its mission to save and improve the lives of homeless pets. Their first craft night was Thrifted Frames and was held before Valentine's Day this year and featured upcycled frames. The workshop and tools are free - participants purchase the thrift items to use in the embellishment projects. Keep an eye out for the next Upcycled Craft Night event at hstt.org. It's also a great opportunity to check out Thrifty Tails Boutique in the West Truckee Center near Coffeebar. Because of generous donors, the shop has a great selection of like-new clothes and accessories in a clean, well-organized and open floor plan. They also carry some used home goods and cute and useful items for pets.

Celebration of Women in Music ▶

In partnership with Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District, Tahoe Truckee School of Music's Celebration of Women in Music concert is rooted in a commitment to transform the music industry's gender dynamics. Did you know that a USC study in 2020 found that less than 13% of songwriters and a mere 3% of music producers are women? Held at the Truckee River Regional Park, the event showcases female musicians in a celebration of women's contributions to music and a recognition of the need to reshape historical narratives around gender in the arts. Performers include seasoned women artists and bands as well as up-and-coming female students. This year's concert is scheduled for June 25. Learn more at tahoemusic.net.









Calling all mountain bikers and the mountain bike curious! The Truckee Dirt Union is again hosting the Loam Masters Rally, May 31 - June 1, a two-day stewardship celebration and rally ride event consisting of a community dig day, a timed hot lap legends race, storytelling, community BBQ, and guided fun laps by ride leaders. This celebration of Truckee's mountain biking community raises

awareness about the Truckee Community Stewardship Initiative. Join in mid-June at the Donkey Town trail network. Learn more at truckeedirtunion.org/registration-copy.

OTHER FUNDED EVENTS

- Feel It All Film Screening and Keynote
 Talk around mental health, hosted by the
 Speedy Foundation.
- The Truckee Historical Haunted Tour, hosted by Trails & Vistas, blends history and mystery for a unique experience in downtown Truckee.
- 2025 Distribution Day, hosted by Truckee Community Cares, supports families in need with essential goods.
- 2025 Plays Season by Truckee
 Community Theater offers high-quality theatrical performances.
- Winter Carnival and Rodeo Rail Jam is a family-friendly winter-fun event hosted by Truckee-Donner Recreation & Park District and the Truckee-Donner Historical Society.
- Downtown Holiday Festival & Bud
 Fish Tree Lighting is a beloved
 holiday tradition hosted by the Truckee
 Downtown Merchants Association.

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- ◆ Truckee Pride Week, hosted by Truckee Pride, celebrates diversity and inclusion in Truckee.
- ◆ Truckee River Day and Fair, hosted by Truckee River Watershed Council, protects and celebrates Truckee's waterways.
- ◆ Truckee Veterans Day 2025, hosted by American Legion Post 439, honors local veterans and their service.
- ◆ Truckee Fire Safe Day, hosted by Eastern Regional Firewise Coalition, promotes wildfire safety and preparedness.
- ◆ lan Casey Classic, hosted by the lan Casey Foundation, is a communityfavorite event celebrating sports and teamwork.
- ◆ Performing Arts Showcase by MusicWings nurtures young musicians through the performing arts and features dancers as well.

Each recipient has demonstrated a commitment to engaging a broad spectrum of the community, from full-time residents to second homeowners. while fostering an inclusive and enriching environment.

- ◆ Rainbow Run, Rock & Roll, hosted by Tahoe Expedition Academy, is a colorful celebration of fitness and fun.
- ◆ Christmas in Truckee, by Tahoe Forest Church, provides a nondenominational candlelight celebration with Christmas hymns in front of the Truckee Train Depot on Christmas Eve.
- ◆ Truckee Nature for All, by Tahoe Institute for Natural Science, explores and celebrates Truckee's natural environment.
- ◆ Truckee Arts Festival, by Truckee Arts Alliance and Truckee Downtown Merchants association features local artists, galleries, and restaurants with

- artist meet and greets at each location and an outdoor concert at
- Donner Memorial State Park Legacy Day, by Sierra State Parks Foundation, honors Truckee's natural beauty and history.

The Truckee Chamber of Commerce proudly supports these community events celebrating music, sports, creativity, inclusion, and so much more. Residents and visitors have a packed calendar filled with opportunities to celebrate the best of Truckee. From outdoor adventures to cultural celebrations, there's something for everyone! Find more information on the Events Calendar on Truckee.com.



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While some consider a day of skiing or hiking enough to earn their après, in Truckee-Tahoe, multisport days are the norm. Our mountain community thrives on outdoor adventure, with endless recreational possibilities in every season.

A perfect spring weekend often includes morning runs down the slopes followed by an afternoon of kayaking or paddleboarding on Donner Lake, mountain biking, or a scenic hike. There's something uniquely satisfying about carving through snow in the morning and hitting the trails for a run, ride, or stroll in the afternoon. Depending on conditions, wakeboarding, golf, gravel biking, ATV riding, fly fishing, disc golf, and wildflower hikes are also on the menu.

Although Truckee is filled with pro-level athletes, you don't have to be an expert

to appreciate the beautiful outdoors here. Whether you are new to a sport or want to upgrade your game, stop by one of Truckee's sports shops to find the right gear, apparel, and advice to make the most of your time outside.

Truckee is a dog-loving town, and for many, an ideal spring day involves skiing in the morning and exploring the Truckee River Legacy Trail or other scenic paths with their four-legged companions. There are 133 hiking trails in Truckee, so you could hike a different trail every week! There are many organizations who have built and upkeep

our trails, but the Truckee Trails Foundation and AllTrails websites are two of the best ways to find all the info on Truckee trails.

Spring conditions can vary dramatically from year to year. Some seasons, snow can linger until June, while other years, trails open as early as April. The Emigrant Trail, starting at Hobart Mills and heading toward Prosser Reservoir, is often one of the first to dry out, making it a favorite for early-season hiking and biking. Donkey Town Trails off Highway 89S is another popular option for mountain bikers coming off a morning at Palisades Tahoe/Alpine Meadows.

Continued on page 18

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Looking down at Donner Lake from the Donner Lake Rim Trail.

A swim in Summit Lake after crossing snow patches to get there.

A great way to enjoy a spring two-sport day without hitting the slopes is by combining mountain biking and swimming. Here's an example suited for intermediate-level mountain bikers.

Starting from the Castle Peak Trailhead, the route heads east to the Donner Lake Rim Trail, then descends to Donner Lake via Johnson Canyon, and then you can finish at

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Donner Lake via the road from the Donner Lake Interchange exit. A convenient meeting spot is Paco's parking lot in the West Truckee Center Shopping Area, where coffee and snacks are available at Coffeebar, or try new Mountain Brew - with great, fresh to go options - on Donner Pass Rd. near Coldstream. A car can be left in the parking lot (farthest from businesses), and then load up a truck full of bikes and riders for a shuttle to the Castle Peak Trailhead. If you don't want to do your own shuttle, you can sometimes arrange one through Dirt Gypsy Adventures or Tahoe Adventure Company. Or leave all the logistics plus the driving to them and join one of their guided rides.

Every spring is different. It's a good idea to consult Trailforks or All Trails to find out if the trails are clear. The ride from Castle Peak can present some unexpected hike-abike sections over snowy patches in dense forest, adding a bit of cross-training to the adventure. A refreshing swim in beautiful Summit Lake offers a well-earned break in a peaceful, secluded setting.

Continuing along the Donner Lake Rim
Trail, riders are rewarded with stunning
views of Donner Lake before descending
through the fun and flowy trails of Johnson
Canyon, on the Wendin Way Access Trail.
At the end of the trail, you'll switch from dirt
to pavement, following the Donner Lake
Interchange road down to Donner Pass
Rd. If you're still up for a short road ride,
head to Sticks Market, a perfect stop for

sandwiches and drinks. From there head to one of the many public docks at Donner Lake for a picnic and another swim. To cap off the day, a stop at Little Truckee Ice Creamery provides a sweet reward before returning to your car. There are bike lanes all along the lake on Donner Pass Rd.

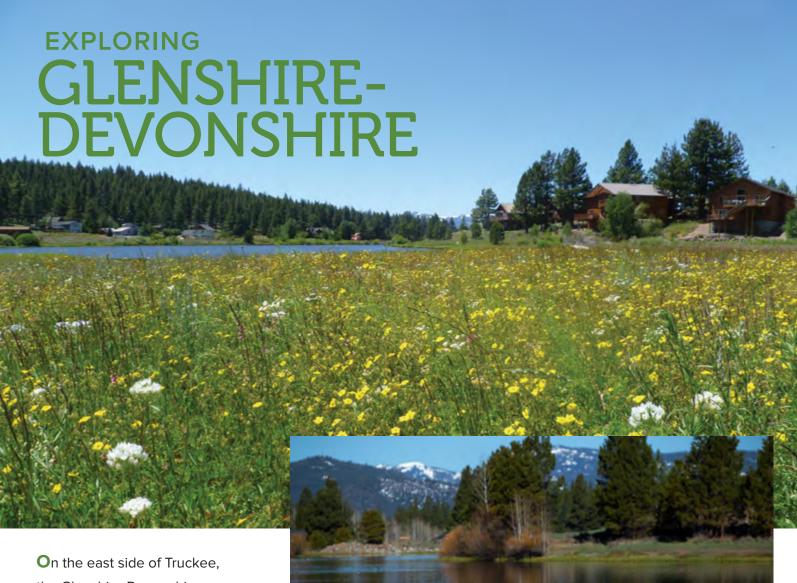
Spring riding offers unique benefits when the trails are clear—or clear enough. Aside from the occasional mountain biker or Pacific Crest Trail hiker, the Pacific Crest and Donner Lake Rim Trails often feel like private trails, even on a Sunday.

This is just one example of a spring twosport adventure in Truckee. Many locals have both their bike and ski racks loaded on the same day. With so many great trails out our doors, it's possible to fit in a day of adventure that would take others an entire weekend to experience.





her love of wine in a concrete way.



the Glenshire-Devonshire neighborhood offers residents a serene blend of natural beauty and community amenities. Once thought by many locals as "too far out of town," the Truckee River Legacy Trail completion to Glenshire Drive in 2014 connected this neighborhood to central Truckee with a 5.6 mile Class 1 bike path. Residents have enjoyed commuting to town along the beautiful Truckee River on bikes and foot, primarily in the spring through fall, but the trail is also plowed in the winter.

Considered the banana belt of Truckee, Glenshire receives less snow than most neighborhoods and via the Hirschdale exit, residents can easily commute to Reno - it's only a half hour drive most of the year. As of January 2025, the Glenshire-Devonshire neighborhood has experienced a significant increase in home values, a 68.9% increase with a median home value of \$1.7 million compared to 28.9% with a median home value of \$1.5 million in the broader Truckee area. Like the shires in England, the Glenshire-Devonshire

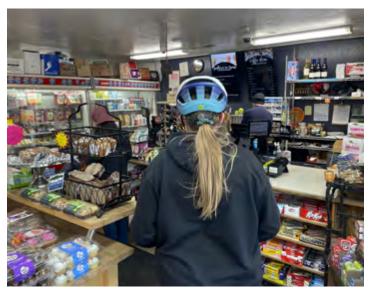
community is tight-knit and could almost be self-contained with a general store, several daycare facilities, an excellent school, Glenshire Elementary, The Shire yoga/ fitness studio, and the cheapest gas in town at Truckee River RV Park & Gas. Located near Glenshire's beautiful meadow and pond, the Glenshire-Devonshire Community Club House is a neighborhood hub with pool and tennis courts and the association even publishes a quarterly magazine, *The Shire*. Here's more information about some of Glenshire-Devonshire's businesses.



Glenshire General Store

glenshirestore.com

Conveniently located on the west side of Glenshire at Glenshire Drive and Dorchester, Glenshire General Store is a cornerstone of the Glenshire community. Family-owned and operated, this store offers a diverse selection of products, including a great beer and wine selection, organic produce, freshly prepared burritos and sandwiches, and basic staples, including dairy. Open 8:00 a.m. to



8:00 p.m. daily, it can almost always save residents a trip to town. Although it has modern conveniences, visiting the store is like a step back in time - children pull up on their bikes to safely shop on their own. The store prides itself on its curated selection, ensuring that customers find just what they need. Whether you're picking up groceries or enjoying a meal from their deli, the Glenshire General Store is committed to serving its community with quality products and friendly service.

Continued on page 22

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Brad Henry Pottery bradhenrypottery.com

Brad Henry Pottery is a Glenshire studio specializing in handcrafted ceramics. Brad's studio is a standalone building and is unique in that it's a self-serve artisan shop. Equipped with technology and clear instructions, you can shop and self checkout at any time. Brad makes all of his pottery onsite. Mugs are his best sellers. His work combines a unique blend of functionality (thumb rest on large mugs!) and artistry, inspired by the natural beauty of the Truckee region. Well, and octopi. Brad Henry's commitment to quality and design has made his pottery a favorite among locals and tourists seeking distinctive, locally-made art. You can find his work in town, including custom logo pieces at Coffeebar, and a variety of styles at Gallery 5830' and Trunk Show Gallery in



Tahoe City. Brad doesn't do Etsy or other online commerce sites. You can find him at the Made in Tahoe Festival in the Village at

Palisades Tahoe in both spring and fall, and he also regularly exhibits at some favorite regional art festivals.



East Side Deli & Truckee River RV Park eastsidedelitruckeeca.com

Not only does Truckee River RV Park off of Hirschdale have the cheapest gas in Truckee (sometimes by more than \$1/gallon), their East Side Deli has some of the best sandwiches and breakfast burritos around, with a reasonable price range of \$9.50 to \$13.50 and big portions. The deli serves a variety of freshly made sandwiches from The Angler to Pastrami Tsunami, to salads - whether hot or cold - their food is excellent. The Deli/Store is also stocked with a variety of food, including milk, eggs, and a wide variety of beverages. Adjacent to the deli, the RV park provides well-maintained sites equipped with essential amenities for travelers.

ASAP Home Inspections asaphomeinspections.online

ASAP offers residential home inspections, radon testing, and pool and spa inspections. Rob Wheeler, founder of ASAP, is a member in good standing of the International Association of Certified Home inspectors, has passed the InterNACHI online examination, and he abides by the InterNachi strict code of ethics and follows their standards of practice. ASAP uses state-of-the-art technology to perform home inspections, including an infrared camera. ASAP is available evenings and weekends and provides an easy-to-read report via email within 24 hours of your scheduled inspection. ASAP Home Inspections is dedicated to ensuring the safety and satisfaction of homeowners and prospective buyers through meticulous inspections and exceptional customer service.





Glenshire Pizza Company glenshirepizza.com

Glenshire Pizza Company, situated in the heart of the Glenshire community at Glenshire and Dorchester, is renowned for its delicious meals crafted from fresh, high-quality ingredients. Beyond their extensive pizza menu, they offer house-made pastas, chicken parmigiana, salads, burgers, and exquisite desserts. Patrons can place to-go orders through their online system or dine in to enjoy the cozy atmosphere. Weather permitting, their deck is open for dining, with beautiful views of the Glenshire Valley past horse stables and with peaks of Mt. Rose in the distance.







HOW INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES SUPPORT A TAPESTRY OF EXPERIENCES

Communities are defined by their people, passions, and progress. Truckee has been shaping the future of its community through individuals and organizations who have come together to foster inclusivity, equity, and belonging. From Pride celebrations and community health initiatives to empowering first-generation college students and changing how leaders communicate, Truckee is making strides to ensure everyone feels seen, valued, and supported.

TRUCKEE PRIDE-

A CELEBRATION OF INCLUSIVITY AND COMMUNITY

Officially known as the Truckee Tahoe Pride Foundation, this 501(c)(3) organization, co-founded by David Mack and a group of passionate locals, was born from a simple idea: to create a space where everyone feels seen, valued, and celebrated.

Last year, the foundation hosted its first-ever Truckee Pride Week, a celebration that far exceeded the expectations of its creators. "It started as a casual conversation among friends," remembers David. "We felt our town was ready for this, and one day, we decided to make it happen."

What began as a small vision turned into a week packed with over 27 events. "Our goal was to create an inclusive environment for everyone," said David. "We emphasized events that were free, open to all ages, and not centered around alcohol. This allowed families, allies, and individuals of all identities to participate and feel welcome."

From a family-friendly Rainbow Run and Festival organized by Tahoe Expedition Academy, a scavenger hunt, drag bingo, a unicorn bike night through town, dance parties, a mountain bike ride, and even a





Tahoe Truckee Promotoras are important health and wellness advocates and mentors in our community.

climbing clinic with Patagonia, businesses and groups joined in, organizing their own events to contribute to the celebration. "It was incredible to see the excitement and support from all corners of the community," he said. "People were more open and enthusiastic than I could have imagined."

David remembers parents being grateful for the event as well. "One parent told me, 'I don't know what my child identifies as yet, but this is the Truckee I want them to grow up in," David shared.

Truckee Pride Week 2025 will kick off with the Rainbow Run on June 1 and feature a full schedule of events through June 7. "We want Truckee to be a place where everyone can feel comfortable being their true selves. Pride Week is one way we're making that vision a reality."

The organizers invite businesses and individuals to get involved by hosting events or volunteering. For those interested, details can be found at truckeepride.org.

PROMOTORAS: CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

To bridge gaps in access to healthcare, resources, and education, Sierra
Community House funds and manages a promotora program focused on serving the Latino community while remaining accessible to all residents. Promotoras, or Community Health Workers, act as liaisons to provide health education, connect individuals with resources, and advocate

Continued on page 26

TDPUD Rebate Programs: Save Energy and Money

Want to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions AND save money on your energy and water bills?

Truckee Donner PUD is here to help you do both with our electrification rebate programs. You can get money back for improving the energy efficiency of everyday equipment in your home and by replacing gas appliances with electric alternatives.

Get money back!

- Weatherizing your home with envelope upgrades to seal leaky ducts, drafty doors, and aged windows will save energy and reduce your heating bill.
- **Heat pump hot water heaters** extract free heat from the ambient air and cost less to operate compared to gas heaters or electric elements.
- An **electric panel upgrade** will ensure that your service panel can handle electric appliances.
- Install an **EV charger** in your home and receive up to \$950.
- Water efficient toilets use 60% less water than older toilets.

Learn more: Go to tdpud.org/rebate or call (530) 587-3896





(530) 587-3896 | tdpud.org/rebate



for community well-being. They work across a variety of settings, including food pantry distributions, schools, and community events.

The promotora team currently consists of five promotoras, all women, who are highly regarded as trusted resources and leaders in the local Spanish-speaking community. Sierra Community House operations and communications director Shannon Falker said that social media posts featuring the promotoras consistently garner the highest engagement.

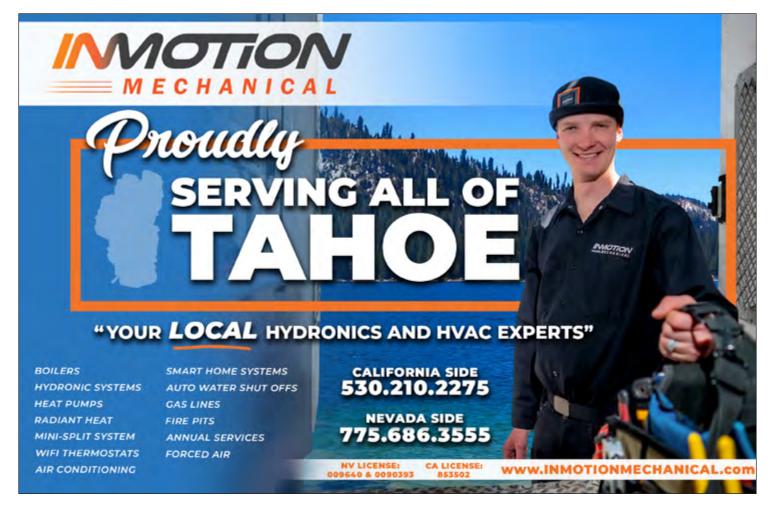
Promotoras address the root causes of health disparities by leveraging their lived experiences. Rocio Gutierrez and Ceci Sanchez joined the program after overcoming personal challenges. Rocio started as a volunteer at the food pantry over 10 years ago. At the time, she was overcoming depression. After recovery, her therapist encouraged her to become a promotora. "This story is really significant because most of them come from very deep stories of overcoming all types of adversities. So they're very resilient," said Felicity Beallo, Sierra Community House Community Engagement and Promotora Manager.

In addition to local work, the promotora team participates in regional and state-level initiatives. They engage with elected officials during legislative days in Sacramento, advocating for policies that benefit immigrant and Spanish-speaking communities.

The promotora program is funded through a combination of grants and partnerships with several local organizations. Paul Bancroft,



Sierra Community House executive director, commented, "The essence of the promotora model is being a trusted leader and resource within a particular community. That's why this program works."



LA FUERZA LATINA:

EMPOWERING FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

La Fuerza Latina (LFL) is a Truckee-based college preparation program that provides first-generation, low-income Latino students with the tools, resources, and guidance necessary to navigate the selective college admissions process. Spearheaded by Craig Rowe, a Tahoe Truckee Unified School District teacher, LFL operates outside the public school system to offer private college consulting services free of charge to motivated students.

LFL began when Craig noticed a gap in college preparedness among Latino students. After meeting two stand-out students, Adela Ortiz and Karina Nunez, Rowe began mentoring them in his spare time. With guidance on college applications, SAT preparation, and financial aid, both students gained admission to prestigious universities. Their successes sparked the formalization of La Fuerza Latina, which seeks to give students access to the same opportunities available to peers with more affluent backgrounds. The program targets high-achieving students who demonstrate motivation and a commitment to academic success.

LFL offers support throughout the college admissions process, which can include financial aid navigation, SAT tutoring and preparation, college selection, application fees, transportation costs, college visits, and more. Students who have received support have gained admission to colleges across the United States, including Harvard, Stanford, Bowdoin, and Tufts. LFL alum Karina Nunez graduated from UC Berkeley with honors in biosciences. Adela Ortiz graduated from UCLA, completed a Fulbright, and is pursuing graduate studies at USC.

Local organizations, businesses, and individuals provide financial support, mentorship, and program opportunities. For example, the Headwaters Science Institute provides scholarships for science camps and opportunities for students to serve as camp counselors. The Truckee Chamber of Commerce collaborated on programs like Futurepreneurs, with the help of Sierra Business Council, and Soroptimist International of Truckee-Donner offers financial and mentorship support, particularly for students interested in law, public policy, and engineering. "I feel like I have a staff of 22,000," Rowe said, referring to the contributions of local partners.

Not a single LFL student has dropped out of college, and all have graduated within four years.

LAND BACK OPPORTUNITY FOR WASHOE INCLUSIVITY Washiw Zulshish Goom Tahn Nu (WZGT), also known as the Washoe Warrior Society, is a grassroots nonprofit organization established in 2009 by Wašiw community members, primarily elders. They are dedicated to restoring in their youth a sense of uniqueness regarding their tribal heritage, language, and culture, enabling them to walk tall and proud while applying the time-honored values of their ancestors to contemporary life decisions.



La Fuerza Latina students Anthony Garcia-Ramirez, Estefanía Gaitan Meza, Valentina Vasquez, and Iratze Aguilar Solorio took second place in the Truckee Chamber of Commerce & Sierra Business Council's FuturePreneuers Pitch Showcase for their Grad Grind, an innovative app concept to help students navigate the college application process.

Central to WZGT's vision is the construction of Wašiw Tahn Nu Ungal (the Washoe Peoples House), a spiritual and cultural gathering place dedicated to ceremony, prayer, and the cultural

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teachings of Wašišiw (the people from here). This roundhouse aims to serve as a venue for the community to gather, speak the Wašiw language, conduct ceremonies, and uphold their ancestors' values as the land's original stewards.

WZGT is fundraising to purchase land in the Tahoe Basin to construct Wašiw Tahn Nu Ungal. They advocate for the Land Back movement, which seeks to reclaim land and restore language, ceremony, medicine, and relationships within the community. By returning to their ancestral lands and reestablishing traditional practices, WZGT believes in promoting healing and cultural revitalization for the Washoe people. They invite support through donations and the purchase of fundraiser T-shirts. Learn more at wzgt.org.

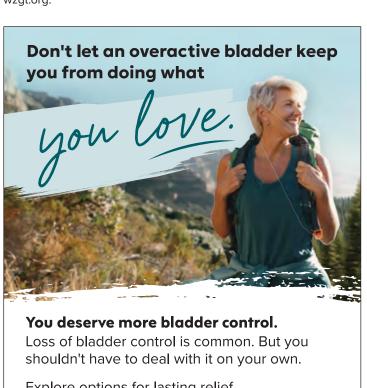
TRUCKEE'S IDEA PROGRAM

The Town of Truckee IDEA initiative—Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility-aims to ensure every resident, visitor, and employee feels welcomed and valued in our town. Over the past year, the program has delivered impactful outcomes by focusing on three core areas: Enhancing Access to Information, Reimagining Community Engagement, and Strengthening Partnerships.

To ensure everyone in the community can access the same information, the Town of Truckee partnered with local organizations to improve communication, particularly for Spanish-speaking residents. Efforts included translating materials for key programs, like the Truckee Home Access Program, and presenting this information at regional gatherings.

To engage with communities, the Town has shifted to non-traditional formats, meeting residents where they are, for example, pizza nights at apartment complexes, culturally significant celebrations like Día de los Muertos, and collaborative events with organizations like the Sierra Community House and the Truckee Library are helping to reach traditionally underrepresented groups.

Upcoming steps include gathering public input through workshops and discussions, finalizing the IDEA action plan, and aligning objectives with Truckee's broader strategic priorities.



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TAHOE TRUCKEE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

In 2020, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation (TTCF) committed to equity by redistributing power and resources to foster a more inclusive community. This effort included a learning journey for its board and staff, aligned with the Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee (CCTT), to move from statements to meaningful action. Recognizing varying capacities among community partners, TTCF focused on building regional knowledge and resources through training and leadership programs.

More than 100 participants from 29+ local nonprofits and public agencies joined a 4-part Community Belonging Training Series on equity, community engagement, and belonging. The series developed equity literacy, actionable DEI strategies, and inclusive organizational practices. It culminated in a workshop where 25 participants assessed their organizations' DEI progress and identified growth areas.

In addition, for nearly a decade, TTCF and its partners have supported On the Verge, a program empowering emerging leaders to address key community issues. Since 2004, over 45 leaders from Tahoe Truckee nonprofits and agencies have participated in four cohorts. The 2024/25 cohort of 14 leaders will build on prior work, focusing on DEI and creating a support network for BIPOC leaders.

Truckee's journey toward inclusivity is far from over — it's a continuous effort powered by the actions and voices of its



community. Whether it's creating a safe space for self-expression during Pride Week, breaking down barriers for students, supporting the cultural heritage of the Washoe people, or connecting neighbors to resources, every initiative is a reminder that change starts locally.

But true inclusivity isn't just about programs and events, it's about the everyday choices we make to uplift one another, challenge assumptions, and create opportunities for belonging. As we reflect on these stories, we ask ourselves: What role can I play in building a more inclusive Truckee? Whether volunteering, advocating, or simply listening, we can create a community where everyone feels they belong.



The **Hows** and **Whys** of Truckee

How To Fix It

Find your jacket zipper not zipping?

Notice a hole in your sock? Is your toaster fritzing out? Don't toss it; fix it!

Repairing and mending rather than buying is a sustainable practice that saves money, keeps waste out of landfills, and supports local businesses.

Extending the life of clothing, electronics, household goods, and more is easy with these local businesses, programs, and classes. Best of all, some of them are free.



A collaboration between the Town of Truckee's Keep Truckee Green, The Truckee Roundhouse—and, at times, even Patagonia—Fixlt Clinics are free, volunteer-driven events where you can repair items like electronics, furniture, clothing, and outdoor gear.

With the help of expert "Fixlt Coaches," you'll not only get your item fixed, but also learn valuable repair skills. Patagonia has sent staff from its repair department to help repair technical clothing and gear, common items brought to the clinics.

"We are so grateful to have Keep Truckee Green's support and sponsorship to offer these free events that promote sustainability and encourage our community to fix and repair. To date, Truckee Fixit Clinics have



saved more than 1,000 lbs of items from the landfill! We've repaired toaster ovens, wooden chairs, tables, backpacks, many lamps, puffy jackets, boots, and so much more," said Alissa Aiton, Community Manager at Truckee Roundhouse Community Makerspace.

FixIt Clinics are typically held twice a year, one in the spring and one in the fall, at the Truckee Roundhouse. The next one will be held on April 21 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Be sure to bring your patience—textile repairs are particularly popular, so you may have to wait to get help. Also, there are limits of three items per person. Learn more at keeptruckeegreen.org/event/fixit-clinic.

Stitch and Mend: Classes and Free Workshops

Whatever wear and tear your clothing has been subjected to, sewing, stitching, and mending are easier than you might think, and the Truckee Roundhouse is here to teach you how to do it.

Take a Class: The Learn to Sew: Alterations and Mending class offers instruction on how to repair your garments, such as hemming pants, patching jackets, or upcycling an old T-shirt. Check their website for additional textile classes and occasional upcycle workshops at truckeeroundhouse.org/classes.

Free Workshops: In response to the overwhelming amount of clothing they saw needing repair at their Fixit Clinics, they launched free Monthly Mending and Repair Workshops to teach the community how to repair clothing instead of throwing them away. Together with Keep Truckee Green,

the Truckee Roundhouse offers classes in patching, visible mending, winter gear repair, darning, zipper replacement, and more to reduce textile waste while teaching new skills.

The Current Schedule

- ◆ March 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.: Zipper Repair
- April 25 from 5 to 8 p.m.: Clothing Mending and Repair in Spanish (new with Maria Vega!)
- May 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.: Alterations and Modifications
- July 18 from 5 to 8 p.m.: Visible Mending
 Register at truckeeroundhouse.org/classes.

Gear Repair Done for You

If you're not ready to dive into repairing your own outdoor gear, make Technical Equipment Cleaners your go-to for restoring, mending, fixing, and reviving all your outdoor gear. From repairing broken zippers and tent tears to re-waterproofing leaky ski jackets and fluffing sleeping bags, TEC Tahoe helps ensure your gear is ready for the backcountry. They also handle unique items like horse blankets, boat covers, and down blankets. Consultations are free, and their expertise can save you from costly replacements. Learn more at tectahoe.com.

Repair Today for a Cleaner Tomorrow

Repairing instead of replacing helps keep Truckee's unique character intact by reducing landfill waste and conserving resources. Whether you're mending your favorite jacket, fixing your bike, or restoring your sleeping bag, local businesses and community events provide the tools, expertise, and inspiration to make repairing a way of life.



OCCUPATION

Executive Director, Tahoe Truckee School of Music

HOW LONG IN TRUCKEE 22 years

WHY TRUCKEE

After 25 years on Tahoe's West Shore, I was drawn to Truckee by the excitement and opportunities of a growing community.

FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT TRUCKEE

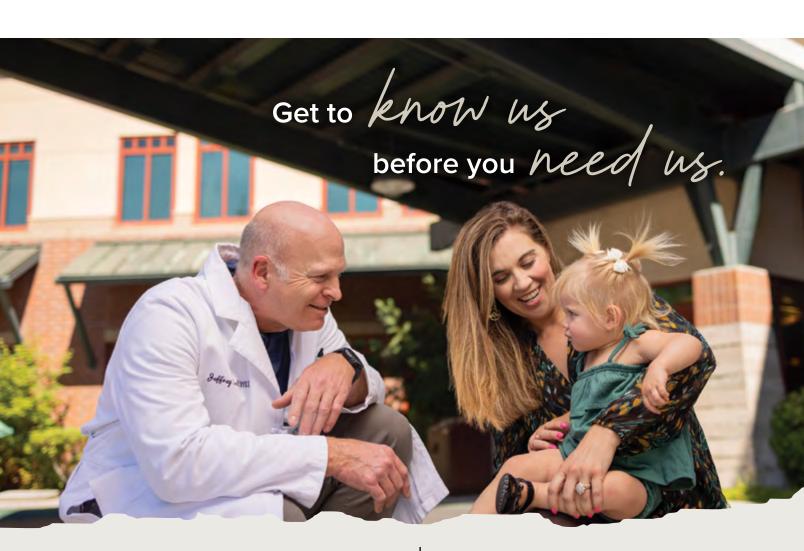
My favorite things about Truckee include the camaraderie of the community, the appreciation that everyone has for the environment, Donner Lake, the awesome mountain biking, the great music scene, and my wife.

Ben is everywhere. Tahoe Truckee School of Music is often performing at community events and fundraisers, including their Tahoe Joy Festival in June (see p. 5). TTSM offers scholarships, so any student who is interested in music can learn and pursue their dreams. Several students have become professional musicians and many more develop skills that enhance their lives. TTSM also puts on the Fall Music Series at the Downtown Park (see p. 8) and hosts Open Mic Night Thursdays at Cottonwood Restaurant. Ben moved from Maine to Tahoe in 1978 and graduated from Sierra Nevada College with a degree in music, and Reno Business College with a degree in business. He started the nonprofit Tahoe Truckee School of Music in 2009.





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