

# **'Jesus Christ Superstar' actors being sought**

Auditions for "Jesus Christ Superstar" will be July 10, 7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College's Duke Theatre.

Singers, dancers and musicians are needed. There is no age and no gender requirements for any role. All songs must be sung in the original key.

The performances will be Oct. 19-21 and Oct. 25-28 at the South Lake Tahoe college.

For more info, email [hamiltonda@att.net](mailto:hamiltonda@att.net).

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## **Kings Beach beach party, fireworks on July 3**

Holiday revelers spending the Fourth of July at Lake Tahoe are invited to start celebrating early in Kings Beach on July 3.

The nonprofit North Tahoe Business Association will host its annual July 3 Fireworks & Beach Party from 7-10pm at the North Tahoe Event Center.

Admission to the beach party is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, guests 21 and older will have access to a beer garden, and periodic live music performances will take place throughout the evening by the San Diego Marines Double Time Brass Band. The evening will conclude with

the fireworks display that will light up the sky at 9:30pm.

**Preferred fireworks seating** is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$25 per person and includes access to indoor restrooms.

Everyone is encouraged to walk, bike, or use public transportation.

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## **Study: Fathers also want to 'have it all'**

**By Gayle Kaufman, The Conversation**

Have you seen the T-shirt slogan: Dads don't babysit (it's called "parenting")?

This slogan calls out the gendered language we often still use to talk about fathers. Babysitters are temporary caregivers who step in to help out the parents. But the fact is that fathers are spending more time with their children than ever before. In fact, American fathers today spend 65 percent more time with their children during the workday than they did 30 years ago.

According to the 2016 National Study of the Changing Workforce, almost half of fathers in heterosexual relationships say they share caregiving responsibilities equally or take on a greater share of caregiving than their partner.

Last week we witnessed the release of the first State of

America's Fathers, a report that draws on numerous social science research studies as well as new analysis of the 2016 National Study of the Changing Workforce.

As a sociologist who studies fatherhood worldwide, I think the most important message of this report is a simple one: Fathers are parents, too.

But dads' desire to "have it all," as we once talked about in relation to working mothers, means that they are also having difficulties successfully combining work and family. The report, among other things, suggests that we need to pass paid, non-transferable, job-protected leave. I agree.

### **Work-life balance is important to men, too**

The State of America's Fathers report highlights that a majority of fathers experience work-life conflict, and that this has increased over time. For example, 60 percent of fathers in dual-earner families say they have problems balancing work and family, compared to 35 percent of such fathers in 1977.

This is likely due to the fact that a majority of fathers feel they don't spend enough time with their children. This situation may be due to the continued pressures on men to earn a good income. According to the 2016 National Study of the Changing Workforce, 64 percent of Americans feel that fathers should contribute financially even if taking care of the home and children. Millennials are just as likely to agree with this statement as baby boomers.

In my own research published in my book "Superdads," fathers continually expressed frustration at not being able to balance work and family. It's no longer a question of whether fathers want to be more active in their children's lives, but how they will do so when workplace and government policies do not offer the support necessary.

## **Men need work-life policies as much as women**

A big part of the problem is that the workplace has not really adjusted to working women and caregiving men.

Instead the idea of the ideal worker, someone (usually a man) who can focus entirely on work while a partner (usually a woman) takes care of everything else, still holds power among employers. But the State of America's Fathers report reveals that most workers have some family responsibilities, and only a minority of families fit the "traditional" breadwinner father, homemaker mother model. Only 20 percent of couples live off of one income. This means that most fathers have partners, female or male, who also work, and more single fathers have shared or primary custody of their children. These men do not have the choice to push off caregiving onto someone else.

Like working mothers, working fathers face stigma when they seek greater flexibility in the workplace. A very similar number of fathers (43 percent) and mothers (41 percent) think asking for flexibility could have a negative impact on their careers.

In addition, there is evidence that leave-taking negatively impacts chances of promotion, frequency of raises, and performance evaluations, and these penalties are stronger for men than women. Men who seek flexibility are even seen as less masculine.

## **The benefits of father involvement**

Why should we be so concerned about men's ability to balance work and family?

The simple answer is that fathers who take leave and spend more time with their children are really good for their families. Their children benefit from better cognitive, behavioral, psychological and social outcomes.

According to the State of America's Fathers report, these fathers also pave a path toward greater gender equality as their sons are more accepting of gender equality while their daughters feel more empowered. Their partners benefit because they are more likely to be satisfied with their relationships and less likely to experience postpartum depression. They are also more able to focus on their own careers, which has the potential to benefit the larger economy as well, with one estimate showing an increase of 5 percent in GDP if women's labor force participation rate equaled men's rate. Fathers themselves benefit by engaging in healthier behaviors and creating more ties to family and community.

And in the end, men are just as capable of caring for children as women. It is the act of providing direct care for a child that increases one's capacity for caregiving. Men's body chemistry reacts the same way as women's to close physical contact with infants. In other words, fathers show similar hormonal changes, and this means they can experience similar levels of bonding with their children.

### **Paid parental leave could help**

In an analysis of policies in 185 countries, the International Labour Organization finds that the U.S. is only one of two countries that does not guarantee paid parental leave. In fact, the U.S. ranks dead last among 38 OECD nations in government-supported time off for new parents.

Our only national policy, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, offers up to 12 weeks of leave, but in addition to being unpaid, it only covers about three-fifths of workers due to a number of restrictions. The act only applies to employers with 50 or more employees and only covers employees who have worked for that employer for at least one year. Additionally, 20 percent of employers that are required to comply with the FMLA offer fewer than 12 weeks of leave to employees who are spouses/partners of new mothers (mainly

fathers), in direct violation of the law. Amazingly, only 12 percent of U.S. workers in the private sector have access to paid family leave, and this applies to a paltry 5 percent for low-income workers.

Worldwide paternity leave is becoming more prevalent, with 71 countries now offering it. Fathers are most likely to take leave when it is specifically designated for them. About 90 percent of fathers in Nordic countries take leave.

These programs may seem out of reach, but we have seen successful paid leave in the U.S. Funded by a very small payroll tax of 0.9 percent, California's groundbreaking Paid Family Leave program helped new parents spend more time caring for their children. At the same time most employers have seen no cost increases or abuse and in fact witness less turnover as employees are able to care for their new children and return to work.

We are also starting to see more models of paid leave among companies such as Ernst & Young, Facebook and Twitter, but I would argue we need something more far-reaching. The FAMILY Act, for example, proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York to provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave, is a start.

This will help fathers to have it all, and be the parents they want to be.

*Gayle Kaufman is a professor of sociology, Davidson College.*

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## **Improv workshops on the South**

# Shore

Tickling the Grey Matter is a two-day improv workshop on the South Shore.

Gerry Orton, director of the Tahoe Improv Players, will lead the workshops at Valhalla.

The goal is to allow natural creative talent to bubble to the surface. It all happens in a positive and supportive setting accompanied by lots of laughter.

It will be July 8 and July 22 from 10am-1pm in the Grand Hall. Cost is \$50. Must be at least 18.

For more info, call 530.541.4975.

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## Financial class in South Lake Tahoe

St. Joseph Community Land Trust will host a financial fitness class on June 30 from 10am-noon at the South Tahoe Association of Realtors office located at 2307 James Ave. in South Lake Tahoe.

A few of the topics to be covered are setting financial goals, tracking spending habits, managing money and more.

Executive Director Cathy Kope will be leading the class. She was the loan program specialist in the South Lake Tahoe Redevelopment and Housing Department.

The class is free to members of St. Joseph Community Land

Trust. Non-members are asked to donate \$5-\$10 to cover the cost of printed materials.

Register in advance by calling 530.541.8930 or emailing [cathy@saintjosephclt.org](mailto:cathy@saintjosephclt.org).

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# **Rethinking ‘leave no trace’ for outdoor social media**

**By Sierra Davis, Powder**

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, a national organization that protects the outdoors by teaching and inspiring people to enjoy it responsibly, recently released new guidelines for social media as it relates to documenting our time spent in the outdoors. We like their suggestions a lot. (We may consider revising our course syllabus for Instagram For Skiers, 101.)

The organization, which aims to offer “a framework for making good decisions about enjoying the outdoors responsibly, regardless of how one chooses to do so,” says it hopes to encourage social media posts from outdoor spaces to include a message of stewardship as part of enjoying the outdoors responsibly.

**Read the whole story**

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# How local businesses compete in the age of convenience

By Alexandra Spychalsky, Moonshine Ink

It is clear that we are no longer living in the heyday of the mom-and-pop shop, and rather are deep in the digital age. Why go away from home to shop when you can have groceries delivered to your door? It may sound cynical, but it's the battle waged daily by the Tahoe businesses that provide the everyday items locals need, like home goods or produce. Here local business owners explain how they compete for your dollars, and why convenience and lowest cost don't always equal the best buy.

For many local business owners, it's all about that personal connection that is unique to a mom-and-pop shop. That's what they say sets a local business apart from the big chains, and is a large reason why customers keep coming back.

Gary Romano, owner of Sierra Valley Farms in Beckwourth – just north of Sierraville – faces an uphill battle each day. The Sierra is not a very hospitable growing area, he says; the 5,000-foot elevation brings cool and rapidly changing temperatures and a soil that can only nurture certain crops. But he can pick a batch of carrots in the morning and get them to a Truckee restaurant by noon, he says, which is about as local as it gets, and he has a loyal following among the produce buyers across North Lake Tahoe.

**Read the whole story**

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# David Burtson – 1948-2018

Longtime South lake Tahoe resident David Burtson died peacefully June 6, 2018, surrounded by friends and family in Modesto.

“Burt” lived in Lake Tahoe from 1956-2014, attended Lake Tahoe schools and worked at Barkley Meat company from 1964-2006.

He was 70 years old, and as a faithful Jehovah’s Witness looked forward to a future life on a paradise earth.

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## Food available to SLT youth throughout summer

The Bread & Broth 4 Kids Summer Program begins June 20, and will continue every Wednesday through Aug. 22 in South Lake Tahoe.

Any child up to the age of 18 can come alone or with a parent or legal guardian to any of the three distribution sites. At St. Theresa’s Church, children can fill up a bag with fresh fruit, cereals, milk, breakfast and nutrition bars, canned meat and more. At the two school sites, prepacked bags will be provided.

Youth are encouraged to bring a backpack or reusable tote bag to carry food home.

Food will only be given to parents who are accompanied by their child(ren).

Distribution locations:

- St Theresa's Church- Grace Hall, 1041 Lyons Ave., 9am-noon
- Tahoe Valley Elementary School, 943 Tahoe Island Drive, 9:30-10:30am
- Bijou Community School, 3501 Spruce Ave., 11am-noon.

Food bags will be delivered to the following child care centers: Apple Seeds Academy, Boys & Girls Club, Child Development Center, Choices for Children, Under the Magic Pine Tree, Foster Family, and Live Violence Free.

For the past three years, Bread & Broth 4 Kids has provided weekend food backpacks for food insecure children in South Lake Tahoe, serving children at all elementary sites and South Tahoe Middle School. Last summer, 1,156 bags of food were handed out to children throughout the South Lake Tahoe community from June-August.

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## **Survey: Most would choose their dog over partner**

**By CBS**

Love is no match for man's best friend. According to a survey, an overwhelming number of adults would dump their partner if they didn't like their dog.

A survey of 3,500 dog owners conducted by dog-walking service Wag!, found that 86 percent of respondents would end a relationship if their boyfriend or girlfriend couldn't get along with their dog.

**Read the whole story**