Nevada OLLI provides enriching experiences

The University of Nevada, Reno’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, or OLLI, is a member-directed organization that fosters intellectual stimulation, sparks new interests and nurtures personal development through academic pursuits in adults age 50 and over. Dedicated to providing educational experiences, leadership and volunteer opportunities, OLLI is a community of people who are passionate about learning and personal growth. On a recent hike with the organization’s hiking interest group, I got the opportunity to learn more about the program from OLLI Board President Ralph Jaeck.

With over 1,800 members, Nevada’s OLLI program is one of the largest in the nation, yet it’s also one of the youngest. To what do you attribute its rapid growth?

Of the 119 OLLI programs in the U.S., most have a paid executive director and curriculum staff, and charge hundreds of dollars in membership and class fees. By contrast, we are a member-driven organization, run by volunteers, and we’re able to keep our fees very low because of the outstanding relationship we have with the University of Nevada, Reno. We offer more than 500 programs and classes, many outstanding faculty volunteer their time, and the University provides the buildings and space we need to make it all come together. I believe it’s because of this University-level commitment that we have so quickly become the third largest OLLI in the nation.

I see classes in the OLLI catalogue that are taught by emeritus University professors, current and former city leaders and influential business owners. How is OLLI able to offer such a wealth of interest areas from such preeminent experts?

In November we had a class on drones. There’s a class on cowboy poetry, another on the political scene in Reno, conversational Spanish and even alternative medicine for pets. There’s such a wide variety of classes taught by some of the greatest minds in northern Nevada, and the reason we’re able to offer them comes down to our exceptional relationship with the University and its commitment to the program. Each instructor volunteers their time and resources to make the classes incredible and free to OLLI members.

Why did you get involved in OLLI?

I initially joined OLLI to find new interests and keep my mind active. The program fills a very important role in retired people’s lives. We had more than 30,000 attendees in classes and groups last calendar year alone! That’s proof that OLLI fulfills a need in the community that is not being met anywhere else and is essential to a high quality of life.

OLLI membership is open to everyone age 50 and older and costs $45 annually. If you would like to join OLLI or would like more information, please call (775) 784-8053, email olli@unr.edu, or visit them online at www.oll.unr.edu.
SUMMER ON CAMPUS: ACTIVITIES, CAMPS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The University of Nevada, Reno is proud to provide access to the knowledge, resources and talent we have here on campus for the benefit of the community. The University hosts or co-sponsors a wide variety of summer youth camp programs and other family-centered activities to promote a culture of cooperation and connection. Here’s a list of the top northern Nevada summer camps and activities for children, adults and families.

CHILD AND FAMILY RESEARCH CENTER DAY CAMP June 13 to Aug. 5, for children ages 5-10. Call (775) 784-6762 or visit www.unr.edu/education/centers/cfrc.

DAVIDSON THINK SUMMER INSTITUTE July 9-30, for exceptionally gifted students age 13-16. Call (775) 852-3483 or visit www.davidsongifted.org.

DEAN’S FUTURE SCHOLARS June 23 to Aug. 2, an academic outreach program to encourage low-income, diverse and first-generation students to attend college. Contact Mariluz Garcia, (775) 784-6925, email ebozsik@unr.edu or visit unr.edu/education/centers/dfs.

ENGINEERING SUMMER CAMPS various sessions June and July for students age 12-18. Call (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/education/centers/afs.

FLEISCHMANN PLANETARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER programs and exhibits for all ages, call (775) 784-4812 or visit www.planetarium.unr.nevada.edu.

GIRLS MATH AND TECHNOLOGY CAMP During July 29, an educational day camp for children entering grades 2-8. Registration begins March 22. Call Extended Studies, (775) 784-4062 or visit http://kids.unr.edu/

HIGH SIERRA AHEC March 28-April 1 and June 13-17, two sessions offered of a one-week camp to inspire curiosity in students grades 6-8. They will explore health care careers through experiments and activities. In partnership with Extended Studies. Visit www.highsierrahec.org.

KIDS UNIVERSITY June 13 to July 29, an educational day camp for children entering grades 7 and 8. Visit www.unr.edu/girls-math-camp.

MOVIES AT THE JOE dates vary. Call the Joe Crowley Student Union, (775) 784-6505, or visit www.unr.edu/studentunion.

NEVADA BOYS STATE June 19-25, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school juniors. Call (775) 646-6594, email info@nevadaboysstate.org or visit www.nevadaboysstate.org.

NEVADA GIRLS STATE June 29 to July 5, a free college preparatory program for qualified high school students. Contact Daela Gibson at (775) 224-0073 or nevadagirlsstate@gmail.com, or visit www.nevadagirlsstate.net.

NEVADA SILVER & BLUE BOOT CAMP June 13-23, rigorous instruction by University faculty and staff using multimedia equipment and software in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center at One Department for a select group of northern Nevada high school students entering their senior year. Following the camp, students will continue to have access to the Knowledge Center’s facilities and staff during their senior year of high school. Call Jacqueline Grant, (775) 682-5669 or jackieg@unr.edu, or visit http://imedia.unr.edu/knowledge_center/Smallwood.

PACK PICNICS ON THE QUAD Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. July 6 through Aug. 10, free and family friendly, co-sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association and Summer Session. Call (775) 784-4652 or visit www.summersession.unr.edu.

PLANETARIUM AND SCIENCE CENTER www.planetarium.unr.edu or visit www.washoeschools.net, or (775) 784-6925, email ebozsik@unr.edu or visit unr.edu/education/centers/cfrc.

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE The University hosts or co-sponsors a wide variety of summer youth camp programs and other family-centered activities to promote a culture of cooperation and connection. Here’s a list of the top northern Nevada summer camps and activities for children, adults and families.

SPORTS CAMPS: NEVADA 4-H CAMP is owned and operated by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The camp situates on 32 shoreline acres on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and is available for rental year round. Contact the Nevada 4-H Camp at (775) 588-6206 or visit www.unce.unr.edu/4h/camp.

SPORTS CAMPS: SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE NEVADA GIRLS STATE June 29 to July 5, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school students. Contact Daela Gibson at (775) 224-0073 or nevadagirlsstate@gmail.com, or visit www.nevadagirlsstate.net.

SPORTS CAMPS: 4-H YOUTH EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP CAMPS, various dates in July and August. Call the University of Nevada 4-H Program Office at (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/4h/sportscamps.

SPORTS CAMPS: WOLF PACK SPORTS CAMPS including football, baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, softball and volleyball camps; call (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/sportscamps.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE THE NEVADA 4-H CAMP is owned and operated by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The camp situates on 32 shoreline acres on the south shore of Lake Tahoe and is available for rental year round. Contact the Nevada 4-H Camp at (775) 588-6206 or visit www.unr.edu/4h/camp.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: 58TH ANNUAL LAKE TAHOE MUSIC CAMP for musicians entering grades 8-12, dates available at www.unr.edu/itmc. Contact Chris Money at Extended Studies, (775) 784-4046 or cmoney@unr.edu.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: MOVIES AT THE JOE dates vary. Call the Joe Crowley Student Union, (775) 784-6505, or visit www.unr.edu/studentunion.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: NEVADA BOYS STATE June 19-25, a leadership and citizenship training program for qualified high school juniors. Call (775) 646-6594, email info@nevadaboysstate.org or visit www.nevadaboysstate.org.

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SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: SMALLWOOD MULTIMEDIA Boot Camp June 13-23, rigorous instruction by University faculty and staff using multimedia equipment and software in the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center at One Department for a select group of northern Nevada high school students entering their senior year. Following the camp, students will continue to have access to the Knowledge Center’s facilities and staff during their senior year of high school. Call Jacqueline Grant, (775) 682-5669 or jackieg@unr.edu, or visit http://imedia.unr.edu/knowledge_center/Smallwood.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: PACK PICNICS ON THE QUAD Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. July 6 through Aug. 10, free and family friendly, co-sponsored by the Nevada Alumni Association and Summer Session. Call (775) 784-4652 or visit www.summersession.unr.edu.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: UPWARD BOUND, a free college preparatory program for qualified students. Call (775) 784-4978 or visit www.unr.edu/upward-bound.

SUMMER CAMPS AT LAKE TAHOE: WOLF PACK SPORTS CAMPS including football, baseball, basketball, golf, soccer, softball and volleyball camps; call (775) 784-4062 or visit www.unr.edu/sportscamps.