

Time running out for drought relief

By Jon Erdman, Weather.com

While this fall and winter have provided needed rain and Sierra snow in California, time is running out for significant drought relief from this strong El Niño as we head into spring.

After an optimistically wet start to the rainy season in the Golden State, including the highest Sierra snowpack measured in five years in late January, February has trended much drier, despite a record-tying El Niño.

Tahoe City has barely managed just over a foot of snow – 13.5 inches to be exact – in February, so far, virtually all during one storm on Feb. 18-19.

According to the California Department of Water Resources, snowpack water content Feb. 25 ranged 84 to 96 percent of the late-February average in the Sierra.

Read the whole story

Body of 1 canoeist recovered from Donner Lake

The body of one of the men who went missing on Friday while canoeing on Donner Lake has been recovered.

Crews as of about about 4:30pm Feb. 27 were calling it a day after being on and under the water for most of Saturday. The search will continue Sunday.

The two men in their 30s who are from the Auburn area borrowed the canoe from the place they were staying at the lake. The canoe capsized in rough waves that were reaching 3 feet at times on Friday afternoon. Neither was wearing a life jacket.

The names of the men have not been released.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Fire operations to resume in Tahoe basin

Weather permitting, the Nevada Division of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service may continue prescribed fire operations beginning Feb. 29.

On the East Shore, operations may take place near Logan Shoals Vista Point, Camp Galilee, Spooner Summit and Sand Harbor. On the South Shore, operations may take place near Spring Creek, Panther Road, and Lake Tahoe Boulevard near Sawmill Road. To view a map with project locations and details, go **online**.

Residual smoke may be seen in locations where operations have taken place over the last several weeks.

Before conducting prescribed fire operations, agencies post road signs around areas affected by prescribed fire, send email notifications and update the local fire information line

at 530.543.2816.

Hamburgers an incentive for kids to read

The Douglas County Public Library is participating in the In-N-Out Burger Cover to Cover Library Reading Program from March 5-April 16.

Children ages 4-12 are eligible to receive certificates for a free In-N-Out hamburger or cheeseburger by reading books.

Both branches of the library are participating. Fill out a card at the library to enroll in the program. Readers will earn an award redeemable for one In-N-Out hamburger for every five books read at their reading level. Each child may earn up to three certificates. Children too young to read on their own may have a parent read to them.

The Douglas County Public Library is located at 1625 Library Lane in Minden and 233 Warrior Way in Zephyr Cove.

Holland wins Olympic test

event

By USSA

BOKWANG, South Korea – The American snowboardcross men dominated at the official Olympic test event for the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Games, where Nate Holland (Squaw Valley) took the win and Nick Baumgartner (Iron River, Mich.) was third. Lindsey Jacobellis (Stratton Mountain, Vt.) made the women's final, finishing just off the podium in fourth.

Holland has had great success in his snowboardcross career, including seven X Games gold medals, but it was his first World Cup win in four years, when he won at Veysonnaz, Switzerland. It was a big win for the 37 year old, who was sidelined for the first part of the season with injury.

"This season's been brutal for me," Holland said. "I sprained my pelvis in December and basically sat on a couch for a month so I'm not the strongest I've been and I still have some hip pain. It's a long injury but I just have to wake up early and get the bones moving—once you're in the gate all that goes away."

Baumgartner overcame a low qualifying result to make it all the way to a World Cup podium for the 12th time in his career.

"Today was unbelievable," he said. "I started out wearing bib 34, so I wasn't super stoked on my time trial. I didn't get to pick my lane all day. I only got the outsides, but I think I was winning every heat going down the first straightaway after turn one. I had great starts. Are you kidding me? I'm 34 years old—to beat these young kids at starts? That's exactly what I wanted. I trained all summer for that and it's paying off. I couldn't be more stoked."

By all accounts the 2018 Olympic event is sure to be an exciting one, as the athletes are very happy with the course,

which is big with lots of passing opportunities.

“The slope is perfect, the jumps were big and there are some tactics and strategy involved,” Holland said. “I like courses that are big and wide open with strategy—it makes you think a little more versus a holeshot scenario. And I’m stoked to see that this hill has the DNA of tactics, big jumps and fast speeds.”

American Robert Minghini (Snowshoe, W.Va.) placed 12th out of the small final, Hagen Kearney (Telluride, Colo.) was 18th, Mick Dierdorff (Steamboat Springs, Colo.) was 28th and Jonathan Cheever (Saugus, Mass.) was 32nd.

The American women were very close to making the podium. Though she didn’t get the start she wanted, Jacobellis made the final and was in a good race position until she cased the last double coming into the finish. It looked like Faye Gulin (Salt Lake City) was going to make the final, winning the lead-up heat until she knocked boards with someone. She finished ninth out of the small final. Meghan Tierney (Edwards, Colo.) finished 12th and Rosina Mancari (Anchorage) was 16th.

The surprising history behind leap year

By Brian Handwerk, National Geographic

It’s that time again: This Monday, Feb. 29, is a leap day, the calendar oddity that occurs (almost) every four years.

For centuries, trying to sync calendars with the length of the

natural year caused confusion—until the concept of leap year provided a way to make up for lost time.

“It all comes down to the fact that the number of Earth’s revolutions about its own axis, or days, is not equal to or connected in any way to how long it takes for the Earth to get around the sun,” says John Lowe, leader of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)’s Time & Frequency Division.

Read the whole story

Free ash cans available to residents in TDFPD

Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District has partnered with Kingsbury Hardware to provide ash cans to homeowners in the fire district for the safe disposal of hot ashes.

This program is available for free to district residents who use a wood burning appliance to heat their homes.

Improper disposal of hot ashes can be devastating. Jan. 19 marked the anniversary of the 2012 Washoe Drive Fire that destroyed 29 homes and charred 3,177 acres south of Reno. It was caused by the improper disposal of fireplace ashes.

To obtain a free ash can, go online, then under prevention print out an Ash Can Voucher. Vouchers are also available at Station 23 in Round Hill across from Safeway. Completed vouchers may be exchanged for an ash can at Kingsbury Hardware while supplies last.

Full ash cans be dumped at TDFPD Station No. 23, 193 Elks

Point Road, Zephyr Cove, in the rear parking lot in a bright red dumpster.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• South Lake Tahoe's David Kelly received the Presidential Citation Award from the American Baptist Homes of the West for his extraordinary contribution to ABHOW through his leadership and dedication to the mission. Kelly Ridge, named after him, as well as Tahoe Senior Plaza were envisioned and completed because of Kelly.

• Scott Baker is now assistant fire chief for Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District. Most recently he was division chief of fleet and facilities in Reno.

• El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on Feb. 23 agreed that dogs will be allowed in Tahoe Paradise Park assuming they are on a leash. The new rule should take affect this summer.

• Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District is having a workshop regarding the park's master plan on March 3 from 6-8pm at the California Conservation Crops office in Meyers.

Vonn crashes, carried down

hill in sled

By Nick Zaccardi, NBC Sports

Lindsey Vonn crashed and was carried on a sled down the mountain at a World Cup race in Andorra on Saturday.

Vonn was leading under snowfall, about 10 seconds from the finish of the super-G course, when she fell while shifting pressure onto her left leg for a turn.

She slid for six seconds and came to a stop, not running into safety fencing.

Read the whole story

Thunder Valley casino to spend \$40 mil. to expand hotel

By Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee

When Thunder Valley Casino Resort opened its hotel in 2010, it represented one of the largest construction projects completed in the Sacramento area during the recession.

The Indian tribe that owns Thunder Valley hedged its bet, however, leaving three floors unfinished as an acknowledgment of tough economic times.

On Wednesday, the casino announced it will build out those floors, adding 111 rooms to the property, in a signal of the resort's continued prosperity.

Read the whole story