

Windy snowstorm on its way to Tahoe

A winter storm warning has been issued for the greater Lake Tahoe area from Friday at 4pm through Saturday at 10am.

The National Weather Service in Reno is calling for 6-10 inches of snow at lake level, with 1-3 feet above 8,000 feet, and a couple inches down to 4,000 feet.

It will be a blustery storm that blows through, which will likely create whiteout conditions. Expect sustained gusts between 45 and 65 mph, and the ridges hitting 100-plus mph.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Warren Miller movie a benefit for STHS ski team

The Warren Miller movie “Chasing Shadows” will be shown at the theater at South Tahoe High School on Jan. 29 at 7:30pm.

This is a fundraiser for high school ski team. Tickets are \$15.

There will also be a silent auction and ski team sweat shirts for sale.

Snowboarder White buys stake in Mammoth

By Hugo Martin, Los Angeles Times

"The Flying Tomato" has gone from carving the slopes to owning them.

Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White has taken a minority stake in the company that runs Mammoth Mountain and recently spent \$38 million to buy Snow Summit and Bear Mountain, the Southern California resorts where he perfected his ollies, rail slides and back flips.

As a part owner of Mammoth Resorts, White will help oversee the operation of more than 4,000 acres of skiable land in California, visited by more than 2 million skiers and snowboarders each year.

"It's like a homecoming to me," White said.

Read the whole story

Super Bowl will elicit \$4.2 bil. in mostly illegal bets

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Americans are poised to wager \$4.2 billion on the upcoming Super Bowl 50, with the vast majority of those bets expected to be placed illegally, according to a projection released Wednesday by the casino industry's main lobbying and trade

group.

The American Gaming Association said its sports betting projection for the Feb. 7 championship football game between the Denver Broncos and the Carolina Panthers represents an 8 percent increase from last year.

About 97 percent of the anticipated bets – \$4.1 billion – will be wagered illegally, according to the gaming association.

Read the whole story

Taxes being collected on water rebates

By Kurtis Ming, CBS-13

Jumping at the state's water rebate program, Alvin Somers ripped out his lawn, and put in drought resistant plants and woodchips. California's Save our Water program rewarded him with a check for \$1,300.

"The idea was terrific," Somers said.

The state offered rebates of up to \$2,000 to put in drought resistant landscaping. Several cities, including Sacramento and Los Angeles have similar programs.

But many who participated in the State's program are getting surprised with a letter stating they may owe federal taxes on it. If your rebate was \$600 or more, the letter reads, "We have been instructed by the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) that in order to comply with federal tax rules, you must... file a 1040 form registering your rebate for federal tax purposes."

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Huckleberry Canyon will be the venue for the Sierra-at-Tahoe Huck Cup. This two-star Freeride World Tour Qualifying event will take place on 320 acres featuring everything from mini-Alaskan style lines to triple drops to tight chutes. The event is Feb. 26-27.
 - The Douglas County Public Library in Minden will be closed Feb. 9 for staff training.
 - Truckee will host the second in a series of public meetings on the proposed Donner Pass Road streetscape improvement project known as Envision DPR on March 3 from 5-7pm at Truckee Town Hall. This meeting has been moved from Feb. 3.
 - Zipcar is now available in Reno.
 - Shawne Corley becomes El Dorado County's assistant chief administrative officer starting Feb. 2. She is from Sutter County where she worked with CAO Larry Combs.
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\$4.5M award to Amtrak upheld

in deadly Nev. truck crash

By Scott Sonner, AP

RENO — A federal judge has refused to grant a new trial for a Nevada trucking company ordered to pay more than \$4.5 million in damages to Amtrak after a truck slammed into a passenger train at a rural highway crossing in 2011, killing six people.

Conductor Laurette Lee, 68, of South Lake Tahoe was one of those who died.

A U.S. District Court jury in Reno returned the verdict in September 2014 against the Battle Mountain-based John Davis Trucking.

The jurors concluded the truck driver who was killed along with five people on the California Zephyr was primarily to blame for the fiery crash in Northern Nevada's high desert about 60 miles northeast of Reno.

Lawyers for the trucking company argued in a motion for a rehearing that Judge Howard McKibben should have instructed the jury to consider evidence suggesting a faulty signal and crossing gate could have contributed to the collision on Highway 95 just south of Interstate 80.

McKibben ruled Monday the verdict — which also awarded more than \$210,000 to the Union Pacific Railroad for damage to the tracks — was a reasonable one.

John Davis Trucking “received a fair trial,” McKibben wrote in a four-page order, adding that the company’s motion was “comprised largely of arguments it has already raised — some repeatedly — and which the court has already decided.”

“The verdicts were not contrary to the clear weight of the evidence, the damages were reasonable and supported by the evidence and there is no basis for concluding that the jury

was presented with false or perjurious evidence,” he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board concluded in December 2012 that the probable cause of the accident was an inattentive trucker with a history of speeding violations driving an empty tractor-trailer with faulty brakes.

The California Zephyr bound from Chicago to Emeryville was three hours behind schedule when it left Salt Lake City on June 24, 2011. It was going 77 mph in Nevada’s Forty Mile Desert when it approached the crossing north of Fallon, the NTSB said.

With the whistle blaring, the engineer initiated the emergency brakes about 450 feet from the crossing, the agency said. Rubber skid marks on the highway showed the truck driver hit his brakes 300 feet from the tracks but skidded nearly the length of a football field into the second car behind the engine. The truck embedded in the side of a crew car, which ultimately was destroyed by the fire that also charred a passenger car behind it.

The driver, Larry Valli, 43, of Winnemucca, was killed along with the train’s conductor and four passengers.

Amgen bike race route to include Hope Valley

Cyclists competing in the Amgen Tour of California in May will ride around Lake Tahoe and through Hope Valley.

The men’s elite race Stage 5 will begin in Lodi and finish 132.4 miles later at Heavenly Mountain Resort’s California

Lodge on May 19. The women's 72.7-mile Stage 1 will start and finish at the Cal Lodge that same day.

This will be the first day of the four-day women's event. The approximately 160 female athletes will begin between 10 and 11am, riding clockwise around Lake Tahoe. In a slight variation from last year's women's race, cyclists will go from Highway 50 to Pioneer Trail then to Ski Run Boulevard, Needle Peak, Wildwood and finish at Heavenly. The athletes should finish between 1 and 2pm.

The men's races features approximately 200 athletes. From Lodi they will travel on Highway 88, going over the Carson Pass into Hope Valley, then over Highway 89's Luther Pass, to Pioneer Trail off of Cornelian, Cheyenne, Apache, Mandan, then to Ski Run Boulevard, and through Needle Peak, Wildwood and finishing about 3:45pm at Heavenly. This stage will reach the highest elevation ever mounted by the race at 8,600 feet.

Sand bags available in South Lake Tahoe

South Lake Tahoe has sand bags available at no cost year-round.

The sand lot is located at the city's public works yard at 1160 Rufus Allen Blvd., which is next to Campground by the Lake.

To pick up sand bags, proceed through the gate at 1160 Rufus Allen Blvd. and drive to the back of the lot. At the back of the lot is a large sand mound, shovels and bags. Residents fill their own bags and transport back to their own residence.

Limit the number of bags to 10 per visit.

Access to sand bags is available during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4pm.

Mardi Gras event helps Austin's House

The eighth annual Cowboy Mardi Gras fundraiser to benefit Austin's House is Feb. 26 at the Carson Valley Inn from 6-10pm.

Put on your jeans and cowboy hat to celebrate the party atmosphere of Bourbon Street in New Orleans on Fat Tuesday. This casual fundraiser features food, music, dancing, games, raffle prizes, and a silent auction.

The party starts at 6pm with a cocktail hour. Then there will be a barbecue buffet dinner. After dinner, the Cowboy Mardi Gras party hits full stride with music, dancing and fun games.

Tickets are \$60. Only 220 tickets will be available and the event will sell out. Call Austin's House at 775.267.6711 to order tickets. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.