USFS wants opinions about Tahoe roads, trails

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is seeking comments on a proposal for the management and uses of existing roads, trails and facilities in the basin.

There are four components:

- maintenance and management of roads, trails and facilities;
- authorization of outfitter guide activities;
- authorization of events;
- authorization of special use permits for recreational uses on USFS lands.

The proposal identifies specific criteria and design features to establish thresholds on activities, which may proceed under the proposed analysis.

An environmental assessment will likely be prepared, which will analyze activities considered appropriate, under what conditions those activities may proceed, and any relevant design features that will reduce the risk to environmental, historic, social and recreational resources.

Comments will be accepted until Jan. 15. More info is **online**.

Food drives help fill Christmas Cheer shelves

The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and South Tahoe Refuse and Recycling are teaming up to make giving to Christmas Cheer easier than ever.

The LTVA’s Drive and Drop for Christmas Cheer takes place Dec. 7-12 from 9am-5pm. Drive through the visitor center parking lot at 3066 Highway 50, South Lake Tahoe, and drop donations of food or toys into the bins provided by South Tahoe Refuse.

South Tahoe Refuse is also having a community food and toy drive Dec. 7-11. Leave canned/packaged food or toys curbside on your regular collection day, or drop off at STR, 2140 Ruth Ave., during business hours.

Christmas Cheer feeds more than 450 families all year.

Then and now: Transformation of Carson Valley

Minden was founded in 1906 on Dangberg Ranch property by Heinrich Friedrich Dangberg Jr., who named it after a town in Germany near his father’s birthplace.



Looking west down Esmeralda Avenue in 1935 in Minden. Photo/Courtesy of Francisco’s

The white columns barely visible at the far end of the street (between the trees) front the Douglas County offices.



Minden retains its small-town feel. Photo/Bill Kingman

Built 105 years ago in 1910, “The Heidlberg” (as spelled on its outdoor plaque) building has been a saloon/bar, card parlor, soda fountain, grocery store, and several restaurants, including Francisco’s Mexican today. The three-story block building across at left is the CVIC Hall.

Gardnerville was established in 1879. While Gardner Mountain at the South Shore is named after lumberman Matthew C. Gardner, former Nevada State Archivist Guy Rocha clarifies how

the nearby town of Gardnerville actually got its name in this article.



An event in Gardnerville in 1900 at the “S” curve on the main road. Photo/Douglas County



That same building still stands today. It is Frontier Antiques. Photo/Bill Kingman

– Bill Kingman

Genoa's hanging tree a reminder of the past



The hanging tree in Genoa is a relic from one of the town's less savory moments. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

GENOA – In the Old West justice was often swift and outside the legal system – especially in the more unruly mining towns. Places like Bodie were accustomed to recording a killing a day.

But Genoa was different. It was a civilized trading post in the late 1800s. So when a mob took the law into its own hands to hang a man it rattled the 1,000 or so residents. Newspapers, though, called it "Nevada justice."

Today, that "hanging tree" still exists on Genoa Lane in a cluster of cottonwoods. A plaque is posted on the tree. It reads:

“On this tree, early morning Nov. 25, 1897 occurred the blackest episode in the history of Nevada. Adam Uber of Calaveras Co. Cal. was forcefully taken from jail abused and hanged by an angry mob, for the pistol killing of Hans Anderson a local teamster in a Millersville bar room brawl.”

One hundred and twenty-eight years later people are still talking about it. Daniel Wassmund with Nevada State Parks last month led a group to the tree and spilled forth the details about one of the area’s darker moments.

The two men knew each other. Some would say Anderson was Uber’s only friend even though Anderson didn’t really claim Uber as a friend. Uber had made his way out west from Pennsylvania at age 15. Before arriving in Genoa he had been living in Calaveras County.

The two ended up at the same bar in Millersville, which was between Minden and Gardnerville. Red Eye was Uber’s drink of choice that night. “A strong, homemade libation,” is how Wassmund described it. An argument ensued and Uber ended up shooting Anderson.

Uber was taken to the jail inside the courthouse in Genoa. His rich uncle paid for his attorney, who had his client plead not guilty on the grounds of mental deficiency. Reports are that Uber was so drunk he didn’t remember the shooting. He had woken up in jail not knowing why he was there.

The locals were not satisfied with how the court proceedings were going.

At 2am the sheriff heard banging and opened the door to find 15 angry men with guns. The constable was greeted in much the same manner. The mob got the keys to the jail and dragged Uber into the dark night. Via a wagon they took him to what is now known as the hanging tree.

As Wassmund tells the story, the horses got spooked and Uber was left dangling.

“His last words are a curse on everyone,” Wassmund said. “No one knew if the curses had spiritual value. They were scared of what they didn’t know.”

To make sure Uber was really dead they fired nine shots into his body.

Some of the men believed to be part of the vigilante act died in peculiar ways; like the constable who had a horrible plowing accident. All were blamed on the curse of Uber.

To this day some say they see Uber’s silhouette in the mist on a full moon, others hear his footsteps at the museum at Mormon Station State Historic Park in Genoa.

Opinion: NV Energy aims to meet all customers’ needs

By Kevin Geraghty, Las Vegas Review-Journal

NV Energy has taken great care to keep rates stable while ensuring we are able to meet the energy needs of our state. Between 2006 and 2012, NV Energy engaged in an aggressive building-and-acquisition strategy to increase our owned-generating fleet, in order to shield our customers from

unpredictable energy markets.

The result was the addition of 3,100 megawatts of highly efficient natural gas-fired generation that now allows us to supply approximately 80 percent of the energy needs of Southern Nevada and 100 percent of Northern Nevada through our own generating resources, making Nevada virtually energy independent. Our customers can take pride in the fact that our reliable service is delivered by one of the safest employee teams in the country.

NV Energy’s top priority is to create greater value for our customers through increased service and stable rates. We were able to reduce our year-over-year operating and maintenance expenses between 2013 and 2014 by 10.5 percent, without layoffs and while improving customer service options. We then leveraged these savings during our 2014 general rate case filing, when, for the first time since the 1970s, we reached a settlement agreement that resulted in no increase in revenue for the company.

Read the whole story

Ganong less than a second from podium

By USSA

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. – Ted Ligety (Park City) and Andrew Weibrecht (Lake Placid, N.Y.) stood on the podium Saturday, taking second and third place, respectively, at the Audi Birds of Prey super G. It was Weibrecht’s first Audi FIS Ski World Cup World Cup podium.

It was a foggy, snowy day at Beaver Creek, with the jury deciding to move the start down the hill for safety. The conditions were tough with soft snow on the side of the course and visibility changing throughout the race. However, the famed Talon Crew course workers were able to get the race off on time, despite the heavy snow that fell.

The early guys had a good go, allowing Weibrecht, Travis Ganong (Squaw Valley) and eventual winner Marcel Hirscher of Austria to lay down solid runs before the snow became thick. Expected winners Aksel Lund Svindal and Kjetil Jansrud of Norway, among others, got caught as the visibility got worse and lost time in the middle of the top 30. But as Ligety's start number of 29 loomed, the sun poked through the clouds and the snow let up, allowing Ligety to throw down in front of the home crowd and ski into second.

"It's tough when it's like today—it's a little bit inconsistent. The top couple guys who ran all had pretty good races and results and then the whole middle bunch were stuck in the brunt of the snow storm. Then during the last 20s, it got nice out again. I got lucky on that," said Ligety after his finish. "It's great to get a podium here in Beaver Creek."

The result tied Ligety's best World Cup super G, although he did win the FIS World Ski Championships super G in 2013. The last time he stood on a super G podium was in 2009 when he took second in Val d'Isere.

Weibrecht was stoked to step on his first World Cup podium. The racer owns two Olympic medals—a silver and bronze in super G—but the closest he had come in a World Cup was fifth.

Just behind Ligety and Weibrecht was Ganong, who took sixth place. Only two-tenths off of the podium, Ganong is showing his power as a speed skier this season. The other American story was Tommy Biesemeyer (Keene, N.Y.), who took most of the last two seasons off due to knee injuries. He attacked the

course, starting 42 to take 11 place.

After winning two NorAms at Copper Mountain this week, Tommy Ford (Bend, Ore.) also skied into the points, taking 28. Wrapping up the rest of the Americans, Steven Nyman (Sundance, Utah) was 35, Tim Jitloff (Reno) 36 and Bryce Bennett (Lake Tahoe) 42. Jared Goldberg (Holladay, Utah) did not finish.

Sommelier touts pizza and Champagne pairing

By Megan Krigbaum, Food and Wine

Newly anointed Master Sommelier Jack Mason believes fervently that the world's greatest food and wine pairing is pizza and Champagne.

As wine director at New York City's Marta, Mason has created a stellar Champagne list to go with the restaurant's cracker-thin, Roman-style pizzas.

"Structurally, it just makes sense," says Mason. "The Champagne has bright acidity that's very refreshing. When you take a bite of pizza topped with salty cheese and a tangy red sauce, then have a sip of rosé Champagne, it's just explosive."

Read the whole story

Western governors endorse prescreening tourists outside U.S.

By Ken Ritter, AP

Governors from 19 Western states called Friday for expansion of a program that screens international travelers at airports abroad, in a bid to encourage tourism and stop terrorists before they arrive in the U.S.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock told the Western Governors' Association in Las Vegas that expanding a U.S. government pre-clearance program would serve two purposes.

"First, it enhances national security by keeping potential terrorists from even arriving on U.S.," he said. "Second, it encourages tourists to travel to the U.S. by reducing the hassle and wait times at customs checkpoints" when they arrive.

Security was a key issue for Bullock, a Democrat, and the Republican governors of Wyoming, Idaho and Nevada during the conference at the Four Seasons resort.

But Bullock said the resolution endorsed by governors of 15 of the 19 states, with some ballots still pending, was in the works long before a mass shooting Wednesday in nearby Southern California killed 14 people and wounded 21 at a holiday event at a government office in San Bernardino. The husband-and-wife assailants, who had ties to Pakistan, were killed in a shootout with police.

The governors' resolution asks U.S. customs and immigration authorities to put screeners at airports in Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain,

Sweden, Turkey and England. It notes that screeners are currently stationed at 15 airports in Ireland, Canada, Aruba, the Bahamas, Bermuda and the United Arab Emirates

The governors also approved resolutions calling for federal funding for sustainable forest management in the West, implementation of the 2014 Farm Bill and safe transportation of defense-related radioactive waste.

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, association chairman, called security the No. 1 priority for governors of every state, not just the 19 members of the association, also including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington.

“You can’t think of security of any individual state without thinking of the security of the country as a whole,” Mead said, adding that he expected the larger and separate National Governors Association might address the issue.

Gov. Brian Sandoval offered prayers and condolences to people affected by the shooting and pointed to preparations being made for New Year’s Eve events including fireworks expected to draw up to 350,000 people to the Las Vegas Strip. Sandoval said 1,500 law enforcement officials and the National Guard will be involved.

“We have to be extremely vigilant how we protect our visitors (and) how we protect our residents,” he said.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell focused during a keynote speech on issues including drought, wildfires, species protection and abandoned mines. She urged states to continue working with federal officials to address them.

Jewell said adopting rules this year to protect habitat for the greater sage grouse in 11 Western states, rather than declare the chicken-sized bird an endangered species, was one

example of cooperation.

The nation’s top land manager acknowledged the breadth of the regulations created lots of work for lawyers.

“But I will say that it’s way better than a listing,” she said. “It provides certainty to developers … states … and the conservation community as well.”

Jewell and Sandoval met separately and reached agreement to use new maps of sage grouse habitat in Nevada to correct inaccuracies that showed the birds living near urban areas in Reno and Sparks – stopping plans for a badly needed school and a veterans’ cemetery.

The budget-busting cost of fighting wildfires was another burning issue during the twice-yearly governors’ meeting.

Robert Bonnie, a U.S. Department of Agriculture undersecretary, said the cost of fighting wildfires has exploded from about 16 percent of the U.S. Forest Service budget in the mid-1990s to more than half the agency budget in recent drought-stricken years.

Fires this year in Washington state and California were among the worst on record, and Idaho Gov. Butch Otter noted that the so-called Soda Fire in the southwest of his state burned nearly 450 square miles.

States are calling for the federal government to classify severe wildfires as natural disasters for funding purposes.

Bonnie said the problem is that the Forest Service spent $3 billion of its $5 billion budget fighting fires that charred nearly 10 million acres in 2015, leaving few resources for needed forest management, research and recreation programs.

Tahoe woman repurposes old skis into furniture



Marianne Rosenfeld makes wine holders similar to this one. Photo/LTN

By Cathie Anderson, Sacramento Bee

Up the hill at Placerville's Snowline Hospice, employees know Marianne Rosenfeld as "The Ski Lady" because she picks up old skis that people donate to the nonprofit's processing center and refashions them into chairs.

Rosenfeld hauls the skis farther up the mountain to South Lake Tahoe where, at some point in the future, they will have a date with her chop saw, she said. She likes to collect skis from the foothills and valley floor because she gets the right kind to make her four styles of chairs and benches.

"In Lake Tahoe, everybody skis. It's the culture. It's all we do, so in the minds of people up there, an old ski might be from '98 or 2000. That's old to us," Rosenfeld said. "But people down here who don't ski that much, when they say 'old

ski,’ they mean ’70s. When I come down here, I really get a lot of skis. The term ‘old’ is different for everybody.”

Rosenfeld prefers the older skis because their runners still have the straight edges rather than the curved, parabolic shape of today’s skis.

Read the whole story

Letter: Giving thanks for Second Serving

To the community,

Every Friday for the last six years, Bread & Broth has been partnering with Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church to feed the hungry through the Second Serving program.

Second Serving meals consist of soup and a simple entrée such as pasta dishes, sloppy Joes and chili cheese dogs. They are served from 4-5pm in the family room of the LTCPC. These meals complement the Bread & Broth Monday evening full-course dinners served at St. Theresa Church Grace Hall.

The dinner guests at Second Serving are treated to hot, tasty and nutritious chowders, and tomato, bean and vegetable soups thanks to eight South Tahoe restaurants that prepare and donate their soups to the Second Serving program.

Bread & Broth would like to acknowledge and thank Blue Angel Café, Café Fiore’, Freshies, MontBleu, Nepheles, Riva Grill, Ridge Tahoe and Tep’s Villa Roma for their participation in the Second Serving program. By donating soups, these restaurants are truly Bread & Broth’s partners in easing

hunger in the Lake Tahoe South Shore community.

Finally, Bread & Broth would like to thank the Second Serving volunteers and the LTCPC for all of their support in providing a second weekly meal to those most at risk of dealing with hunger.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth