

Truckee planning world-class skate park

By Dave Zook, Moonshine Ink

To bolster the Truckee's skateboarding offerings and honor a fallen friend, a 16-person committee is organizing the construction and management of what they hope will be the standout skatepark in the region, and one that will rival anything in the state.

The new 25,000 square foot park will be called the Rocker Memorial Skatepark in honor of Steve "Rocker" Anderson, an avid local skateboarder who passed away in 2012 in an avalanche on Donner Summit.

The committee's optimism was buoyed in late May after receiving approval from the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District to use the space in the overflow lot across Estates Drive near the existing skatepark in Truckee River Regional Park. The approval came during a Rec & Park board meeting that was reportedly the highest attended in the department's history, with an estimated 150 people. The committee is now tasked with meeting town and county regulations, finalizing the design, and raising the estimated \$500,000 needed for construction.

[Read the whole story](#)

Prop. 47: Fewer prisoners,

but public safety impact unclear

By Alexei Koseff, Sacramento Bee

Citrus Heights police Officer Wesley Herman recently arrested a parolee carrying stolen jewelry and a deceased man's identification card.

If the property were valued at more than \$950, the case was a felony that would let him take the man into custody. If not, it was a misdemeanor and he'd get a citation.

The first words out of his mouth, Herman said, were, "Am I going to jail?"

It's been nine months since California voters approved a ballot measure reducing charges for some nonviolent drug and property crimes, and Herman says repeat offenders are getting savvy about the new limits of the law.

Read the whole story

Nev. to phase out home financing rescue program

By Sandra Chereb, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY — State officials are dimming the lights and preparing to phase out an ambitious but short-lived program initially intended to help people stay in their homes as

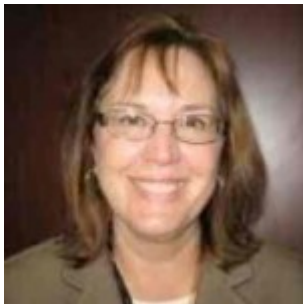
Nevada's housing market crumbled and home values plummeted during the Great Recession.

The Nevada Home Retention Program set a lofty goal of acquiring 4,600 discounted mortgages of distressed properties over a seven-year period with the intent of helping homeowners refinance and stay afloat.

Nevada lawmakers in 2013 appropriated \$49 million for the effort, and another \$100 million was made available as needed through federal funds and a loan from the state housing division.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Former El Dorado County CAO Terri Daly is now administrative services manager for Yuba County Water Agency.

• Josh Welch, a chiropractor in Meyers, is going to San Quentin State Prison this month to adjust inmates during the 11th annual San Quentin TRUST Health Fair. TRUST stands for Teaching Responsibility Utilizing Sociological Training.

• Basecamp Hotel in South Lake Tahoe has completed an expansion of the existing property by adding guest rooms, multiple indoor and outdoor meeting and event spaces, as well as a beer garden. Owners renovated the adjacent building, formerly the Capri Hotel, which added 24 guest rooms that

retain the adventurous design aesthetic of the original 50-room Basecamp Hotel.

- Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for this week.

- Truckee installed a work zone webcam near the Highway 89 Mousehole construction project to provide pictures and time-lapse video. The webcam may be viewed .

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‘Play at the Pump’ lottery program expanding

By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

A pilot program by the California Lottery in which gamblers can buy lottery tickets at gas pumps is being embraced by players, but the convenience raises concerns for an anti-gambling group.

“Play at the Pump” lets motorists buy up to \$20 worth of Quick Pick tickets when they pay with a credit or debit card at the gas pump. The program – which started about a year ago in Roseville – has spread to 86 other locations in the region and Southern California. The plan is to expand to about 100 stations. Only California and North Carolina have the option, but other states are considering it.

Customers appear to like the convenience of paying for the Powerball, Mega Millions and SuperLotto Plus draw games without walking inside a gas station mart. Other stations want to come on board, said lottery spokesman Alex Traverso.

Tahoe wildfire plan to be unveiled at enviro summit

An updated Lake Tahoe Basin Community Wildfire Protection Plan will be presented to the public during the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit on Aug. 24.

This plan was collaboratively developed by the 18 member organizations of the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and is the culmination of a three-year effort.

At last year's Lake Tahoe Summit, the TFFT presented the updated Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy, which provides a strategic framework for how land managers and the public work together to lessen the risk of loss from wildland fire. Officials say the strategy can be thought of as a business plan and agreement between the public and Tahoe agencies.

The plan is more than 500 pages, including tables and maps. The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 created the concept of Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Prior to that time, fire planning was done by federal and state land managers, generally without a partner in the local community, because few community groups addressed fire hazard specifically.

In 2004, the Nevada Fire Safe Council, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, U.S. Forest Service, state agencies and local fire agencies produced Community Wildfire Protection Plans that served as the primary planning tool for fuels reduction

projects around the Tahoe basin.

The updated Community Wildfire Protection Plan goals are to:

- Create fire-adapted communities: The plan provides mitigation strategies and community-driven action plans to help create communities where citizens are engaged and active in preparing for wildfire. It facilitates interagency cooperation and strengthens communication and support between agencies and the public.
- Restore and maintain fire-resilient landscapes: The plan provides prioritized locations for fuel reduction treatments to enable land managers to effectively work across jurisdictions and address risks to ecosystems and communities at a landscape scale.
- Provide effective and efficient wildfire response: The plan provides strategic treatments on the landscape that will facilitate safer and more successful suppression. This plan provides for tracking, reporting, and sharing of both fuel reduction accomplishments and homeowner/community initiatives.

Then and now: MontBleu's various incarnations



The Park Tahoe had issues at the beginning. Photo/Bill Kingman collection

The Park Tahoe casino opened in the summer of 1978, built by Park Cattle Company, but was closed within a month due to issues with fire safety regulations.



Caesars World in 2005.
Photo/Bill Kingman

Caesars World took over and reopened the facility as Caesars Tahoe Palace the following year.



The brief name change lives on in film. Photo/Bill Kingman

For a few days in October 2005, Caesars appeared as the fictional “Nomad” during filming of the movie “Smokin’ Aces”.



Ownership changes bring name changes. Photo/Bill Kingman

Caesars was sold in 2006. With the new name, MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa, in May 2006 came a new marquee.



MontBleu as it looks today.
Photo/Bill Kingman



A sign of the times.
Photo/Bill Kingman

—Bill Kingman

**Browne delivers hope and
steel guitar**



Jackson Browne wows the crowd at Harveys on Aug. 7.
Photos/Kim Wyatt

By Kim Wyatt

STATELINE – I had a whole review written in my mind comparing and contrasting Jackson Browne’s performance of his post-Watergate hit “The Pretender” to the previous evening’s Republican debate. And then he didn’t sing it. So this review will have to be simply about a master songwriter and the large, intimate crowd gathered Aug. 7 at the Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena at Harveys.

I first saw Jackson Browne when I was 10 years old. It was my first concert, and my dad took me. (I think he couldn’t find a babysitter.) Between this and Buffalo Springfield always spinning in our house, you’d think my dad was trying to make a little radical. Browne’s Summer 2015 “Standing in the Breach” tour – so named for his 14th album inspired by events in Haiti – still amplifies his political mindset, but it was his intimate numbers that moved the crowd. Songs like “These Days”

and “Fountain of Sorrow” sandwiched in between lyrics about fracking and corporate corruption, even a love song to the ocean, made for a weirdly satisfying emotional roller coaster – a cycle of hope and despair that fortunately ended on hope. Browne’s gift as a songwriter has always been to give voice to our most personal existential crises, to be our Everyman, yet in naming it, he makes us no longer alone. It’s a neat trick, and a wild, singular talent.



Jackson Browne is a singer, songwriter and musician.

The 20-song set plus two encores were anchored by Browne’s polished band. Greg Leisz delivered on lap and pedal steel guitar, and the electric guitar was handled deftly by Val McCallum. Bob Glaub (bass), Mauricio Lewak (drums) and Jeff Young (Hammond organ, piano) brought up the rhythm section. Alethea Mills offered harmony and the solo vocals that we were all waiting for, so familiar was this crowd with Browne’s oeuvre, an almost full house of former hippies, environmentalists and child radicals like myself, I suspect. (A portion of the proceeds from Browne’s concerts and sales goes to The Guacamole Fund, a group that supports grassroots social justice and environmental activities.)

From the first note, the audience knew almost every song. Browne’s usual tropes of love and despair, along with the signature steel guitar, were immediately in play: The first

song, "The Barricades of Heaven," left no doubt that Browne's new tunes didn't stray far from the old, and made me curious about the new album. His voice still strong and steady, Browne has a knack for making everything seem better and worse at the same time. "The Long Way Around" featured some sweet Allmanesque guitar from McCallum, who shone throughout the night, as did Leisz's omnipresent steel guitar.

One cool surprise of the evening was the appearance of Nevada City's Bob Schafer, one of Browne's mentors, taking the stage for a tender rendition of Hank Williams Sr.'s "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" – a heart-tugging experience under the stars.

After a 10-minute break, the crew returned for the last set. The audience began shouting out Browne's hits. Warm and friendly, he asked us to be patient. Well, maybe not so warm. His hair blowing in the chilly night wind, Browne, from Los Angeles, gave the Tahoe crowd a great compliment: "Thanks for having us, Tahoe. You're hardy people."

After a four-song set from his new album that focused largely on the environment – which got the audience fist pumping, this is Tahoe, after all – Browne yielded and gave the crowd what they wanted: "Doctor My Eyes" and a rousing "Running on Empty" that led to two encores: "Take It Easy," – which Browne co-wrote with Glenn Frey – and the iconic sing-along "The Load Out/Stay."

Browne left the crowd dancing, on their feet, flushed and happy. Yet the sentiment of the night might be wrapped in up this lyric from "Standing in the Breach": *"You don't know why,/But you still try for the world you wish to see."*

So, idealism is alive and well and a little bit older. Despite modern life, its depredations and defeats, there is no room for apathy, Browne seems to say. We've made it through some dark and lonely times, but we've still got work to do: Let's do it together.

Firefighter dies fighting blaze near Tahoe

A firefighter working in a remote area between the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Eldorado National Forest has died.

He was struck by a tree about 5:30pm on Aug. 8.

The name of the firefighter has not been released pending notification of family.

This is the second firefighter to die this summer in California. David Ruhle, 38, of the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota was on the Frog Fire in the Modoc National Forest when he was found deceased Aug. 31.

The Tahoe area death was announced just before midnight Aug. 9. The firefighter had been taken to Lake Tahoe Airport. At 7:09pm Saturday Calstar nurses were called over to perform CPR on him.

The fallen firefighter was on a new blaze called the Sierra Fire. There are no details about the fire other than reports it is burning near Sierra-at-Tahoe.

A second firefighter who was also injured in the incident has been treated and released.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Letter: TAP takes a turn at Bread & Broth

To the community,

Helping to meet the needs of those who struggle with hunger, Bread & Broth serves evening meals on Mondays at St. Theresa Church Grace Hall and Thursdays at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church. B&B is able to serve these meals thanks to the generosity of our many community sponsors and donors.

Hosting the July 27 meal was Tahoe Arts Project, B&B's most recent sponsor of an Adopt A Day of Nourishment.

"Tahoe Arts Project is very pleased to be here for the Adopt A Day program," said Peggy Blowney, Tahoe Arts Project executive director. "This is a wonderful program that is extremely important for our community."

Blowney and fellow Tahoe Arts Project members Mary Lamore, Molly Watkins and Nancy Muller spent three hours with B&B volunteers working enthusiastically to provide giveaway bags and a dinner consisting of nutritious and tasty foods for the evening's guests.

Tahoe Arts Project's goal is to enrich the lives of Lake Tahoe community members with particular focus on children through their arts and education programs in schools. Bread & Broth thanks and commends Tahoe Arts Project for striving to provide cultural enrichment and diversity for our community and also show concerned for the impact of hunger on the lives of our fellow community members.

For more B&B information, go online or find us on Facebook.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth