

Placer County SAR looking for donations

The Placer County Sheriff Office's search and rescue teams have started their annual telemarketing fundraising drive throughout the county.

Money is being raised to purchase mobile communications equipment for the Lake Tahoe area.

Telephone solicitors will be calling Placer County residents to ask for donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation will be sent a pre-addressed envelope. Callers will not ask for credit card information. Donations should only be sent to the following addresses: P.O. Box 4150, Auburn, CA 95604 or P.O. Box 1710, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

During recent fundraising efforts, another company calling themselves "Search and Rescue Charities" led some donors to believe that they were donating to Placer County.

For further information, call 530.889.7846.

Tervis Cup offers field research opportunities

By Marsha Hayes, Horse

The 2015 Tervis Cup, started today with more than 200 horses and riders departing the Robie Equestrian Park near Lake Tahoe on a 100-mile journey.

This year's renewal of the ride also marks the fourth year that veterinarians Langdon Fielding, Gary Magdesian, and Greg Fellers will oversee a field blood draw 36 miles into the course at Robinson Flat, the site of a mandatory one-hour rest period.

"We hope to duplicate the nearly 100 percent participation of last year in order to substantiate and expand this physiological data base," said Fellers. "Every year we collect more data, it becomes more meaningful."

Read the whole story

2015 fire season approaching record level



Grassy areas in the West are quick to burn with this being year four of the drought. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

By Gloria Dickie, High Country News

USA Today earlier this week reported that U.S. wildfires were approaching “record levels.” The article pointed at the more than 5.5 million acres burned so far this season – second only to the summer in 2011, when just more than 6 million acres had burned by the end of July.

Certainly, the 2015 fire season started off with a bang. As of Thursday, 21 large fires – meaning more than 100 acres – were burning in Western states. But when it comes to wildfire, the tide turns quickly, and this season may not set any all-time records.

This year’s fire season has been an odd one. The usually fire-prone Southwest has burned less than the Pacific Northwest, California and Alaska. More than 85 percent of acreage burned has been in Alaska. Meanwhile Colorado, which has broken a number of its own fire records over the past few years, has remained relatively fire-free.

Read the whole story

Jenner Olympic torch fetches \$24,000 at auction

By Ula Ilnytzky, AP

NEW YORK – The 1984 Summer Olympic Torch that Bruce Jenner carried through Lake Tahoe sold for just less than \$24,000 at an auction of sports memorabilia Thursday.

The 24-inch Olympic torch was the first major piece of Jenner memorabilia to go to auction since the winner of the 1976 Olympic Decathlon Gold Medal became Caitlyn Jenner. It had a

presale estimate of \$20,000.

The seller was Bob Lorsch, a Los Angeles philanthropist and entrepreneur who orchestrated the Tahoe leg of the torch relay and secured Jenner's participation.

"This torch serves as a wonderful symbol that masculinity and femininity are not mutually exclusive," said Chris Ivy, director of sports auctions at the Dallas-based auction house. "The decathlon has long been considered the ultimate athletic proving ground. Jenner has played both gender roles masterfully."

Jenner was approached to carry the torch as part of the Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games to help support Caesars Tahoe's agenda of giving back to the local community and promoting area youth programs, Lorsch said. The hotel casino held a drawing for a chance to win a place in the relay and sponsored 50 kilometers, or about 31 miles, of the Nevada route. Seven kilometers went to individuals and 42 to local organizations. Jenner was asked to run the remaining kilometer.

"Caesars saw it as a tremendous opportunity ... to do something more special, never realizing that we would be creating what is truly a piece of history that originated as a piece of sports history, then evolved as a piece of entertainment history through the Kardashian legacy and becoming a cultural phenomenon through the transition to Caitlyn," Lorsch said.

Better known to a younger generation as the patriarch on TV's "Keeping up With the Kardashians," Jenner announced earlier this year that he was transitioning to become a woman.

The torch, which was purchased by an anonymous Midwest collector, was among the highlights of the auction held by Heritage Auctions in Chicago.

Boat patrols rescue family, kayakers on Tahoe

A Coast Guard crew from the Tahoe City station was alerted about 9:45pm July 29 that three people were missing on Lake Tahoe.

The 31-year-old woman and her two kids were found near Meeks Bay on a raft that was quickly losing air, according to authorities. Calstar used its radar to find the three, and then the Coast Guard boat reached them.

El Dorado County Sheriff's Department's search and rescue team returned the family to Meeks Bay. No one was injured.

The week before, on July 22, Coasties and a Good Samaritan rescued two kayakers who were unable to get back on their vessels.

The two were near Incline Beach at approximately 3:20pm July 22 when they fell in and then began drifting apart. Neither was wearing a life jacket. Both were in good condition after being pulled to safety.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Tennis club going country for

a day



With the July Hump Day being rained out, Zephyr Cove Tennis Club is carrying over the Country Fried Hump Day theme to the Aug. 12 event. Players are encouraged to wear country apparel.

This Hump Day Mixer will include barbecued chicken, raffle prizes, and an adult doubles round robin for all ability levels. The tennis is semi-serious because the emphasis is on fun. Play starts at 5:30pm.

The mixer costs \$10 for club members, \$15 for non-members, and \$5 for spectators (meal only). Membership is \$80 per year. To join, go **online** or do so the night of the event.

Participants of Hump Day events are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert, as well as beverage of choice. No advance sign-up is required.

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club is on Warrior Way off Highway 50 in Zephyr Cove. The nonprofit Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation is hosting the event.

Turf buyback expands into major yard overhaul



Gutters will go in on the facing roof line, with the rocks for erosion to be repurposed, and the area near the door being redesigned. All of this is outside the scope of the turf buyback program. Photos/LTN

Publisher's note: *This is one in a random series of stories about what it's like to go through the South Tahoe Public Utility District turf buyback program.*

By Kathryn Reed

House projects are never as simple as one would like them to be. They often mushroom into something larger than originally anticipated. Even removing sod has had this outcome.

I thought pulling out the grass, creating a path to where I

split wood and planting foliage would be no big deal. Wrong. Related side projects are taking unexpected time and unbudgeted money.

South Tahoe Public Utility District reimburses for turf removal, not all the other projects. Obviously that makes sense, it's just something to consider before embarking on such an endeavor. Tying all the pieces together isn't always as straightforward as one imagines at the get-go. At some point, though, the cash flow spigot runs dry and priorities have to be determined.

My TRPA-designed drip line doesn't do a great job on erosion control. And it's just not pretty. Well, it is better than the dead grass. Still, though, it won't work with the new landscape design. Plus, I'm going to repurpose those rocks as part of a dry riverbed to catch the excess water from the rain barrel.

Gutters will replace the drip line. I've learned not many businesses install gutters in South Lake Tahoe.

Winter's Electric does through a subsidiary company. They want me to install a fascia board before the gutters are installed. They don't do that type of work. Luckily, my friend and neighbor Bob does all sorts of stuff like this. The purpose is that it will be a surface for the gutter to attach to. Considering a ton of runoff comes from this section of the roof the reinforcement is necessary.



This is the pile of **sod** from the 3.5 rows removed by the homeowner. South Tahoe Refuse will pick it up if it's bagged or in cans – but not like this.

The river bed is “required” because the rain barrel is likely to fill up fast and I’ll need a place to direct the water in a logical manner – meaning away from the house and so it doesn’t flood the newly designed yard. Plus, this will filter it a bit.

Rain barrels come in all types of material, sizes and design. Unfortunately, I came up short on my shopping trip this week to Home Depot. They only have them online. I still need to order them. (I’m buying two. The other will go on the downspout from the back gutter.) I’m leaning toward one that allows plants to grow on the top.

What to plant is almost as overwhelming as to what the design should look like. I’ve gone on the South Shore **garden tour** (which this year was hosted by the master gardeners) numerous times. What a fabulous way to get ideas about what to do in your own garden – ideas about plants, colors, design, mulch and other things to add to the yard.

It does seem like the people who open their yards to these

tours spend a ton of hours each week working on them. I don't have that kind of time nor the desire to find it. That in itself is something to consider.

Many people have yard art or other things that make the space inviting. I've decided to move my chairlift swing so it faces the California Tahoe Conservancy lot instead of the driveway-street. That is my biggest non-foliage item – at least for now.

My friend Mike came over to talk about turning a couple rounds of wood into a bench. He pointed out the need to pay attention to the length so they are about the same and not wanting them to be tilted. Kim wisely suggested using snowboards or skis as the bench part. Mike has the tools to drill them into the wood and cut the skis if necessary.

I envision this going near the wood cutting area so I can rest. Plus, it ties into the ski lift theme of sorts.

I've removed the wood along the edge of the yard. I don't want any barriers like that again. The rocks and wood stepping stones near the front door have also been moved. This is more area to contend with that has nothing to do with the turf buyback.

I also want to make some changes to the backyard that will necessitate removing some plants-bushes. I'd like to transplant them to the front. This will spur me to get on that project soon so it's not an ugly mess. At least it's behind a fence in case I don't get to it soon.

Letter: A graveyard of trees at Camp Rich



Tree removal this summer at Camp Richardson. Photo/Liana Zambresky

To the community,

The USFS has done the deed. The trees have been cut.

The campground will never again be the same. I walked through it with dismay. As I looked at the big piles of dead trees and slash, and also at the few left standing, I asked myself why this is necessary? I saw a western tanager and robins hopping around on the piles of debris, as if they were also questioning why anyone would want to cut these trees. Why are they doing this in a campground that has already been here for decades?

Ever since the Angora Fire, the USFS has been on a relentless agenda to get rid of trees. However, in a place like Camp Richardson, where people want to be closer to nature and enjoy the Tahoe experience, they should have a gentler hand. This is a great tragedy. What they have done is too excessive. They are ruining Tahoe. They are ruining Camp Richardson. Everyone knows what a supermarket parking lot looks like. That's not why people come to Tahoe to camp at Camp Rich.

Study: Farming had an earlier start

By Sindya N. Bhanoo, New York Times

Farming may have originated 23,000 years ago, thousands of years earlier than previously thought, according to a new study.

Researchers discovered a large number of seeds at an ancient hunter-gatherer site known as Ohalo II on the shore of the Sea of Galilee in Israel.

Many of the seeds had scars, a mark that distinguishes domesticated species from wild forms.

[Read the whole story](#)

1 person killed in accident near Truckee

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

TRUCKEE — A 23-year-old Fair Oaks man died Thursday night from injuries suffered when the vehicle in which he was a passenger overturned northwest of Truckee.

Brayton Walters was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident on Meadow Lake Road south of Henness Pass Road by Truckee Fire Protection District personnel.

Read the whole story