

Washington Fire 56% contained

The 17,787-acre Washington Fire is 56 percent contained.

“The structural fire engines assigned to Markleeville are being phased out and will be continue to be released to their home units,” according to officials.

The fire started June 19 from a lightning strike that had occurred about 10 days prior to winds turning it into the inferno.

Highway 89 to Monitor Pass and Wolf Creek Road remain closed to all traffic.

Pacific Crest Trail hikers may use the Ebbetts Pass area for resupply.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

BLM defends its Burning Man requests

By Reno Gazette-Journal

Federal Bureau of Land Management officials defended on Sunday their request for special housing accommodations during the annual Burning Man festival in Nevada, disputing comments by Sen. Harry Reid and others that the plans are unnecessary and extravagant.

A *Reno Gazette-Journal* investigation broke the details of the request last week.

Burning Man organizers have refused the request, saying amenities such as flush toilets, washers and dryers, showers, air conditioning and refrigerators at the bureau's on-site camp in the Black Rock Desert would cost \$1 million and increase permit fees to about \$5 million.

The request, a first of its kind in Burning Man's history, has turned into a point of contention as organizers negotiate with the agency for their annual permit to stage the event in the Black Rock Desert. No permit has been issued for this year's event, which runs Aug. 30 to Sept. 7. Permits are typically issued in early August.

Gene Seidlitz, the bureau's Winnemucca district manager, said Sunday to the Associated Press that the cost of the portable units is being "robustly exaggerated" by organizers. The compound will offer basic amenities only for top agency officials who oversee the event, he said.

Read the whole story

Tahoe history told through comics

The Lake Tahoe Society for Storytelling & Enlightenment has released its latest Tahoe History Comix.

"State Route 28" has cyclist Marcus from the Netherlands on a journey from Tahoe City to Spooner Summit. Learn about the history of Tahoe timber and transportation along the way.

"State Route 28" is available at Bona Fide Books in Meyers or online.

TRPA grants Barton Ranch demolition permit

By Kathryn Reed

A segment of South Lake Tahoe's past is about to visually disappear from the landscape.

A hearings officer with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency today approved the demolition of all of the buildings at the old Barton Ranch at the Y. Slated for the wrecking ball are the barn, ranch house, guesthouses, cabin, cottage and shed.

Gary Midkiff, a land use and permitting consultant representing the Ledbetter and Mosher families who own the property and are descendants of the Bartons, spoke at Monday's meeting. Despite a full room, Kirk Ledbetter was the only other person to talk June 29. He could not be reached after the meeting.

The family takes issue with people putting up signs that say "History vs. Greed". The family's contention is the usefulness of these buildings is long gone. Now vagrants are using them. Vandals are ruining what is still standing. Squatters are living there.

The family has been going through this process for more than four years.



The boarded up Barton Ranch buildings in South Lake Tahoe are likely to be demolished this summer.
Photo/Bill Kingman

The landowners are open to people repurposing the buildings – whether turning them into historical museum-like structures or something else. No one has come forward with the money to make that a reality.

Part of the problem is these once iconic white and green buildings are full of graffiti, mold, mildew and lead-based paint.

TRPA is involved in the process and not just South Lake Tahoe officials because it is identified as a historical resource by the bi-state regulatory agency. This triggered a more involved process than a routine demolition permit.

The Bartons were pioneers in this area. In 1915, they moved to the South Shore, establishing a dairy ranch at what is now the Lake Tahoe Airport. Across the Upper Truckee River it is still known as the Barton Meadow.

They ran a milk route to Echo Lakes, Camp Sacramento, Twin Bridges, Tahoe Meadow and Beecher's Country Club, where

Harrah's is now located.

Then they developed the acreage near the Y. At that time it was wide open – not full of commercial enterprises like today.

What becomes of this 4-acre site next to Raley's remains to be seen. The demolition permit is good for three years. If the structures don't come down in that time the property owners lose their rights to the commodities associated with the parcel. This includes 39,007-square-feet of coverage, two residential units and 5,631-square-feet of residential floor area. Those items will be banked and the owners able to use them on another site.

Conditions of the permit include revegetating the site and trying to obtain a recorded history of the one family member still alive who lived at the property.

If anyone appeals the demolition permit before the July 20 deadline, the Governing Board would then have the final say.

6-day artists' studio tour in S. Lake Tahoe

Tahoe Art League's Artist Studio Tour is a self-guided art event that occurs each year on the last weekend of July and first weekend in August. There are numerous open studios to visit with either individual artists or artist collectives showing their work and working spaces.

These artists are diverse and work in many media including glass, photography, jewelry, painting, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture and drawing.

The ninth annual event is July 24-26 and July 31-Aug. 2, 10am-5pm each day.

For more info, go online.

Next water fight – companies bottling water

By Tony Dokoupil, MSNBC

MOUNT SHASTA – Throughout parched California, a punishing drought has forced communities to cut back on their water use. Just outside the town of Mount Shasta, however, a private bottling company is about to do the opposite, opening a tap on millions of gallons of the state's dwindling public resource.

The pumping is set to start later this summer, when Crystal Geyser – a subsidiary of Otsuka Holdings, a massive Japanese health care conglomerate – will drop its straw into a famous spring here, sucking in and selling the run-off from ancient glaciers. Some of it will be shipped overseas, while the rest will be sold in-state, according to the company.

No matter where it's sold, many residents of Mount Shasta are angry and confused by the move. They fear dry wells and an overdrawn aquifer. Some also believe that the mountain spring should be shared by all, not sold off for individual gain. They've decided to fight, hiring a lawyer and pledging to picket the plant when it opens.

For the moment, the cold, clean glacier-melt of Big Springs flows into the wells and jugs of locals, and feeds the pipes and faucets of millions of thirsty state residents. It pools

in a shrine-like park in the city of Mount Shasta, beneath a dome of blue sky at the roof of the state, a short hike from the base of the 14,179-foot peak.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



· Seroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra recently installed Lydia Rogers as president of the service club.

· “On Golden Pond” will be at the Boathouse Theatre on the South Shore on July 2, 3, 5, July 9-12 and July 16-18. For more info, go online.

· The Attic, Barton’s thrift store, will bring out a large selection of clearance priced holiday items from July 6-24, Monday to Saturday from 10am-4pm. The Attic is at 970 Lodi Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

· Members of the Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe gathered at Sawmill Pond on June 27 to paint rest rooms and signs, and cleanup. This has been an annual event. The Rotary Club of South Lake Tahoe has adopted Sawmill Pond as one of its many service projects for the community.

· Tahoe Donner Association is reducing fire danger this summer and fall through the implementation of a smoking ban on all Tahoe Donner-owned property.

For a better steak, cook directly on charcoal

By Matt Lee and Ted Lee, New York Times

We've never been the kind of guys to worship outdoor grilling gear and technology. When we were growing up, Dad set the tone, making do with a rusty hardware store hibachi and a metal chimney. We've written about the ascetic thrill of using government-issue grills in state parks.

But recently we picked up a trick from a Dallas chef that has rocked our minimalist approach to its foundation: We cook meats directly on the coals.

No, the precious porterhouses do not incinerate, even though the heat is consistently 800 to 1,000 degrees. The char is robust and earthy, but never too ashy or excessive, even when we use thinner cuts like hanger and skirt.

In fact, the method promises to reduce anxiety at our outdoor parties this summer by making the grilling speedier and more consistent, with far less sooty flare-up than when we raise our steaks a few inches onto a grate above the coals. (That air space between the meat and the heat provides oxygen for combustion.)

Read the whole story

ZCTC to host Breakfast at Wimbledon event

Lake Tahoe tennis players will be channeling the professionals July 11 as Zephyr Cove Tennis Club celebrates Breakfast at Wimbledon.

This is the same day as the men's and women's doubles finals at the All England Tennis Club.

The Tahoe tournament is for adult players of all abilities. No need for a partner because the draw will be randomly selected. Participants are asked to wear all white, just as the professionals do. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the top four teams.

Breakfast will begin at 9am, with tennis starting at 10am.

Participants are encouraged to bring a side dish, as well as beverage of choice that does not come in a glass container.

The Breakfast at Wimbledon tournament is \$15 for club members, \$20 for non-members, and \$5 for spectators (meal only). The fee includes breakfast and multiple rounds of tennis. The first 32 individual entrees are guaranteed a spot. Entry is secured upon receipt of payment. Sign up in the Club's Pro Shop by noon July 8.

For more information about Zephyr Cove Tennis Club, go online.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Sunkist

Sunkist is one of several kittens available for adoption at the shelter right now. All are very pretty, playful kittens with lots of healthy energy. Also, the shelter is looking for a few homes to foster other younger kittens for a few weeks. Call the shelter if you are interested.

Sunkist is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other cats and dogs who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all available pets at the shelter.

Call Animal Services at 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz