

Ducks, geese, rice – the next drought victims?

By Josephy Serna, Los Angeles Times

The nests of hundreds of thousands of birds and the food for millions more could be imperiled this year because of fewer rice crops in California – the latest symptom of the state's historic drought.

Only about 375,000 acres of rice are expected to be planted this year, a 30% decrease from a typical year and the lowest in California since 1991, according to a statement from the California Rice Commission.

In summer, the rice is used as nesting for native mallards and shore birds, said Mark Biddlecomb, director for the western region of Ducks Unlimited, a wetlands conservation group.

[Read the whole story](#)

Heavenly on course to transform mountain



Heavenly Mountain Resort is no longer just about skiing. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

Heavenly Mountain Resort this summer is embarking on \$17 million worth of improvements, with some of the amenities slated to be ready to experience in a matter of months.

The Epic Discovery program is Vail Resorts' – parent company of Heavenly – answer to transitioning into a year-round resort. The project received approval from the regulatory agencies this spring.

Construction on the alpine coaster will begin this month and should be ready to ride this coming ski season. It is a raised track through the forest, with riders on individual sleds. It will be built north and west of the existing tubing hill. It uses gravity for the descent while giving riders full control of their speed.

The mid-station zipline canopy tour, an interpretive zipline canopy tour in the area between the Gondola midstation and the top station to the east of the gondola alignment, will break ground in early July, and take three months to build. It will open to the public in summer 2016.

On June 12, Heavenly will begin summer operations with the debut of the resort's four line Hot Shot Zipline.

The summer tubing hill will have a second lane added by June

26.

A permanent 35-foot rock climbing wall is under construction south of Tamarack Lodge. It will feature 18 defined climbing routes with automatic belay systems and a quick-jump 35-foot rapid descent that emulates free-falling. It will open in August.

In September, the Mountain Excursion Tours via 4 x 4 vehicles will provide guided tours.

For smaller children, Heavenly will open a kids-specific zipline and ropes course this summer

The interpretive learning program is being developed with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, League to Save Lake Tahoe and Nature Conservancy for a summer 2016 launch date.

Expansion of activities outside of the top of Gondola area to the East Peak, Dipper/Comet areas will begin in summer 2016 – this includes mountain biking.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

IVGID offering free weekend public transit

A free weekend shuttle service in Incline Village starts June 27.

Incline Village General Improvement District is providing the service for local and tourist beginning June 27. The shuttle

will run on weekends through Aug. 16. It will also be available July 3. The hours are from 10am-7pm, though it will be extended July 3 and July 4.

There will be seven stops throughout Incline, with a bus coming by every hour.

The \$15,000 to run the program is coming from IVGID's beaches' operating budget.

Most \$2 win bets on American Pharoah uncashed

By Richard Rosenblatt, AP

NEW YORK – Souvenirs, everyone?

A \$2 ticket on American Pharoah to win the Belmont Stakes may be worth a lot more money later than now. Or, people are hanging on to their own little piece of horse racing history.

Or selling them online.

Two days after American Pharoah became the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years, more than 95 percent of those who spent two bucks on win tickets have yet to cash them in.

Of the 94,128 \$2 win wagers placed from Friday until Saturday's Belmont, 90,237 remain live – uncashed – according to figures released Monday by AmTote International.

AmTote handles the wagering system for the New York Racing Association, which operates Belmont Park, Aqueduct and

Saratoga. The totals are from bets made at Aqueduct and Belmont.

For the 3,891 who cashed their \$2 win tickets as of Monday, the payout was \$3.50.

And for those still considering what to do, your deadline is March 31, 2016, or the money is returned to the state.

On eBay, \$2 win tickets were being offered at \$20 and up each; a Belmont Stakes program and \$2 win ticket in the \$65 range; and a \$2 win ticket from each Triple Crown race – the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont – in the \$300 range.

There was one listing offering 500 \$2 Belmont Stakes win tickets on American Pharoah for \$14,999.

Early years of S. Lake Tahoe come to life



Laurel Ames, Betty Mitchell and John Cefalu talk June 10 about the early days of South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

Nuggets of South Lake Tahoe's 50-year history were uncovered Wednesday night as three longtime locals bantered about days gone by.

Laurel Ames, Betty Mitchell and John Cefalu spoke about the early days of the city and how some things are better, and some not so much. They weren't the only ones who remembered what it was like. About a dozen people in the audience raised their hands when asked who was around when the incorporation took place.

Ames and Mitchell were two of the powerhouses behind the two-year process that led to the eventual incorporation of the city in November 1965. They said it was a group effort to pull it off – with many of the 14,000 people living here at the time volunteering to do whatever was needed.



These were the days before computers, the ability to mail merge, and adhesive stamps. Addressing parties were necessary to get information to people. It meant addressing envelopes by hand, licking stamps, licking envelopes. At that time so many people were not registered to vote because they feared getting called for jury duty, which would have meant driving to the courthouse in Placerville.

One of the first issues to be dealt with was what area should the city occupy. There was no money for a survey, so the South Tahoe Public Utility District boundaries were used. The only time this was expanded was when the city took over the operation of Lake Tahoe Airport from El Dorado County.

"Heavenly Valley was pure politics. (Owner Hugh) Killebrew came to us and said, 'If you keep me in the boundary, I'll sue you'," Ames recalled. That is why the California Base Lodge is in the county. Incorporation proponents didn't have the means to fight a legal battle.

Cefalu remembers being at the old high school for the Caltrans meeting to discuss the agency's proposed freeway through town.

"The fact that the freeway was to have an off-ramp into Harrah's parking lot aggravated Harvey Gross, (owner of Harveys casino)," Cefalu said.

He said if the freeway had been built, it would have been a disaster for the community.

Folks in Placerville didn't want much to do with those in the Lake Tahoe Basin, other than to collect the tax revenue, while returning little of it.

Mitchell recalled the time she and her husband were going to put an addition on their house. They tried to get a permit, even wanted to pay for it.

"They said you don't need it; that no one would come to

inspect it," Mitchell said.

This, though, led to a lot of the funkiness of the city and poor craftsmanship in some cases.

Ames misses the big trees that used to line Highway 50, adding this is one of the sadder changes.

Signs were an early bugaboo for officials. That is one ordinance that remains contentious today, primarily because of the lack of enforcement.

Harrison Avenue came about after parking was eliminated along Highway 50. Frank Globin, according to Cefalu, created a 1-foot easement on the Caltrans side so there would always be a buffer. This property came into play during the recent Harrison Avenue upgrades.

Cefalu said for years the city endured the wrath of the state transportation department because the electeds voted against the freeway and the citizenry said the same.

The good ol' boy network was established before incorporation became a reality. There was a group called the Roosters.

"Five of those folks were elected to the City Council so you can see where the influence started," Cefalu said.

Letter: STHS students say thank you



From left to right top row: Ryan Rozano, William Davenport (teacher), Rebekah Miller, Trenton Gifford, Antony Lopez, Miguel Ruano, Danielle Gifford (Applebee's manager), Sarahi (Applebees staff). Left to right bottom row: Jocelyn Lopez, Jennifer Corado Sifontes, Emily Griffin, and Carina Giardina. Photo/Provided

To the community,

South Tahoe High School is one of the most unique and fun schools I've attended, it's full of opportunities for students to achieve their maximum capacity. I am a proud Achievement Via Individual Determination student who enjoys learning new ways of becoming a better leader and student. The AVID program starts in seventh grade until your senior year to make sure you are one of the most successful students in a four-year college. In your junior year AVID focuses on each student exploring their horizons when it comes to colleges. This adventurous and educational field trip is to make sure each AVID student has felt the environment of a college and have a better idea of which option he or she wants to go after high school.

Each class is responsible for raising the money that's needed

to go on this trip which also gets the students involved within the community. As time approaches the class of 2016 we decided to host a breakfast that was possible thanks to Applebee's amazing workers. It's so close to our junior year that we are now back on track to having one of the best colleges experiences in our high school careers. Applebee's was the perfect way for us to get involved and familiar with fundraiser they also made it super easy and fun it being our first time. We definitely hope to work with them in the future. We cannot thank them enough for helping us collect over \$800.

Thanks to the opportunity offered to us by Applebee's we are now on our way to getting to visit at least three colleges, spend one night in a hotel, and possibly visit a theme park. Each year that you are a member of the AVID program you remember that you are closer to you award field trip, at least that's how I like to see it. We also want to thank the community for supporting our class in this great opportunity for the future leaders of the world.

□We hope that this field trip will allow us to make a great decision our senior year on what college we would like to attend. It will be the first time for some students to get the chance to explore colleges and get a feel for the real world. A special thank you to Danielle Gifford and the staff at Applebee's, William Davenport our teacher, and his wife, for making sure that our fundraiser went great.

Sincerely,

Jenniffer Corado Sifontes, STHS AVID student

\$1.4 mil. to promote Nevada tourism abroad

By Cy Ryan, Las Vegas Sun

CARSON CITY – The state Board of Examiners on June 9 approved contracts to draw more international visitors to Nevada.

The state Commission on Tourism plans to spend \$1.4 million to employ firms in a number of foreign countries to promote Nevada.

It is entering into new contracts or renewing contracts with companies in Brazil, Australia, England, France, Germany, South Korea and Mexico.

Read the wholes story

SLT man accused of crimes in Bay Area

By Daniel Montes, Bay City News

Police announced Tuesday the arrest of a man wanted in connection with a home invasion robbery in Dublin on Friday.

At approximately 7:15am June 9, police, along with the help of the El Dorado County sheriff's office, located Matthew Muller, 38, at a home in South Lake Tahoe, according to police.

Muller was taken into custody on charges of attempted robbery, burglary, assault with a deadly weapon and assault with great bodily injury, police said.

Read the whole story

GOP presidential candidates coming to Stateline

The First in the West Presidential Roundup will be at Harveys Outdoor Concert Arena on Aug. 22.

The Nevada Republican Alliance has invited Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, Mike Huckabee, Rand Paul, Mike Pence, Rick Perry, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum and Scott Walker.

Tickets are available online.

Calif. worrying about next recession

By Chris Megerian, Los Angeles Times

Even as California's leaders prepare a new state budget that is flush with cash, Gov. Jerry Brown has increasingly raised the specter of another recession that could undo years of hard-won financial progress.

When he released his latest spending proposal last month, he said a downturn was "around the corner." In a speech to business leaders, he said the question was "not if, when." And

he told county government officials that even a moderate downturn could cost the state \$40 billion in revenue over three years.

The governor's warnings may seem overwrought, given that economists see no sign of trouble on the horizon. And state revenue has routinely exceeded even the most bullish projections in recent years.

But the question is whether California has done enough to guard against another budget crisis, and experts say that the answer is a resounding no.

Read the whole story