

Letter: Paying it forward at B&B

To the community,

The \$250 donation to sponsor the May 25 Bread & Broth Adopt A Day of Nourishment was provide by a grant from John McDougall, of the Pay It Forward Community Fund through the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation.

Through the Parasol Foundation, McDougall has set up a Pay It Forward Scholarship and High School Mentoring Program for non-college bound youth and wants his program recipients to learn how to give back to the community.

By hosting an evening dinner that served over 100 meals, McDougall exemplified his commitment to helping those in need by paying it forward with a hot, filling and healthy dinner to those who struggle with hunger. He and his volunteer crew members, Janet McDougall and Debbie DuBuc, kept busy helping the Bread & Broth volunteers greet, serve and provide the Bread & Broth dinner guests a great meal and a place to socialize and enjoy the kindness of others. McDougall has hosted and volunteered at previous B&B broth dinners and "enjoyed seeing how great the people were; very nice and friendly."

He also noted that "the fellow volunteers all work well together and the dinners are very helpful to our community." To that end, McDougall has committed Pay It Forward funds to setup an ongoing, annual sponsorship for Memorial Day weekend Mondays. Bread & Broth would like to thank him for his generous current and future support of our program and our goal of easing hunger in the community.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Quality U.S. pot changing the drug wars

By Peter Robison, Nacha Cattán and Benjamin Bain, BloombergBusiness

The street lieutenant fidgeting in a Ciudad Juárez pizza parlor deals drugs for Barrio Azteca, a gang that emerged from Texas prisons in the 1980s to control a chunk of illegal shipments from Mexico into the U.S. Southwest. Think No Country for Old Men—secret nighttime drops, murders, and a lucrative sideline in human trafficking and prostitution. Meeting with a reporter while his heavyset boss circles the block, the Juárez dealer is preoccupied with his hottest new product: handcrafted American-made pot.

He marvels at one medical marijuana operation he visited in Arizona. “There are tanks with a system that at a certain hour releases oxygen, water, and light like clockwork,” says the man, who asked that his name not be used for fear of arrest or reprisals from other gang members. Connoisseurs in Juárez are noticing, he says; they’re starting to demand Purple Haze or Kush from American dispensaries. Gang members bring the quality stuff back from the U.S. The prices are higher—about 200 pesos per gram, compared with 50 pesos for his usual product—but then so is the quality. “There’s much more novelty, more variety,” he says.

With marijuana now permitted in some form in 23 U.S. states, the usual flow of pot from south to north has slowed and, to a growing degree, reversed. This was never imagined as a benefit of Nafta. Now, the expanding U.S. pot industry is transforming the drug distribution patterns of the notorious

cartels—forcing them to deal more exclusively in heroin, for example—and leading to both cultural and economic change in Mexico’s own consumption of marijuana. Two opportunities may arise: a business boom for legal pot producers in the U.S. and the chance to concentrate the drug war on far more deadly substances.

Read the whole story

50-year sentence for murder of ex-LTBMU chief

By Peter Hecht, Sacramento Bee

Andy Harris came to the courtroom Friday with a lengthy prepared statement: a tribute to Robert “Bob” Harris, the former U.S. Forest Service supervisor for the Tahoe basin and the father he loved and idolized.

In his written text, the son was also going to ask the judge to show no mercy for his stepmother, Colleen Harris, 73, the woman who had “murdered my dad in cold blood.”

But after stepping up to the court lectern, Andy Harris, a Grass Valley attorney, couldn’t compose himself to read. His voice stammered. He began to weep. He junked the script and just started talking.

Colleen Harris would show no emotion minutes later when the judge sent her to prison for 50 years to life.

Read the whole story

Panel: California water losses are huge

By Rong-Gong Lin II, Los Angeles Times

A panel of water experts on Sunday mapped out the challenges California faces in meeting future demands for water at a time when water sources are under stress and future supplies appear uncertain.

The panel, speaking at the *Los Angeles Times* book club, agreed the problems are serious and multifaceted: groundwater reserves underneath California's Central Valley are estimated to have been depleted by 125 million acre-feet since the first wells were drilled more than a century ago and as water demand is forecast to outstrip supply coming from the Colorado River in the coming decades.

"What we're really looking at is about a 20 percent problem of our supply being lost to climate change and over demand, and that's huge," said Jeff Kightlinger, general manager of the Metropolitan Water District, at a discussion of the book "Cadillac Desert," by Marc Reisner.

Read the whole story

2 small wildfires ignite in

Tahoe basin



Firefighters make quick work of a fire June 8 at Incline Lake. Photo/USFS

Firefighters spent part of today fighting two small wildland fires.

The first was reported about 10am June 8 at Incline Lake. It burned about one-quarter of an acre.

The cause is under investigation, but is presumed to be human caused because there has been no lightning.

The U.S. Forest Service and North Lake Tahoe Fire District personnel knocked down the blaze.

Then crews doused a 10 foot by 10 foot plot on Glen Eagles Road and Pioneer Trail near Meyers about 4pm Monday.

The Forest Service believes it was started by a vehicle's catalytic converter.

"People need to make sure their vehicle is maintained properly. That would keep things like this from happening," Steve Burns, assistant fire and fuels management officer, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

This ties into this year's mantra of "one less spark" – which

also includes lawn mowers, power tools, campfires and fireworks.

This fire was on state recreation area land. USFS, CalFire, Lake Valley and South Lake Tahoe fire responded

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Nev. Legislature guts elk bill, then targets predators

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

There's an adage in politics that says if you're not at the table, you're on the menu.

During Nevada's recent legislative session, that message applied to coyotes and mountain lions as much as it did to lobbyists, at least when it came to Assembly Bill 78.

The bill started life in late 2014 as a request from the Department of Wildlife to authorize the Wildlife Commission to increase by \$5 a fee that's applied to elk hunting tag applications.

Cash from the increase would have been used to beef up a state program that repays farmers and ranchers for damage elk sometimes inflict on private property.

By May 27 when Gov. Brian Sandoval signed it into law, however, the elk tag fee was long gone and replaced by a mandate to dedicate at least 80 percent of another fund to pay for lethal predator control. Revisions also called for reports from state wildlife officials to county-based wildlife

advisory boards whenever the state officials act contrary to the advice of the county-level boards.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



Foreigner delights fans
Saturday at MontBleu.
Photo/Ellie Waller

- Ellie Waller, who was at the June 6 Foreigner concert at MontBleu, raved about the concert. She received two free tickets and was able to meet the band because she is a *Lake Tahoe News* subscriber.
- Rachel Michelin, 43, of El Dorado Hills has been reappointed to the California State Board of Optometry, where she has served since 2014.
- The 14th annual Art Wine and Music Festival at Squaw Valley is July 11-12 from 11am-5pm, with wine tasting from 2-5pm. Cost is \$25 per day.
- Guy Yeaman's Dog Obedience Class is for six weeks at Kahle Community Center in Stateline on Thursdays from 7-8pm starting

June 18. Cost is \$80. Dogs must be at least 4 months old. For more information or to enroll, call 775.586.7271.

Youth tennis lessons offered at ZCTC

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club is offering three weeks worth of instruction for youth starting this week.

The lessons are for those who will be in grades 2-7 for the 2015-16 school year. Second- through fourth-graders will play from noon-1:15pm on Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays for the weeks of June 8, June 15 and June 22. Fifth- through seventh-graders will be on the courts from 1:30-2:45pm.

The fee is \$100 per student with online registration.

A tennis certified professional is running the program.

For more information, call Bob Beut at 530.314.3588.

GOP seeks to speed up tree removal

By Kevin Freking, AP

WASHINGTON — Drought has killed about 12 million trees in California's national forests. In the Rocky Mountain region, an epidemic of pine beetles has damaged trees over a stretch of 32 million acres. Altogether, up to 40 percent of the

entire national forest system is in need of treatment to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire and disease. As the national forests suffer from drought, density and infestation, House Republicans are resurrecting efforts to thin more quickly millions of acres and take down dead trees.

It's not a new battle by any means, but this time some of their proposals are winning positive feedback from the Obama administration, even as some environmental groups and House Democrats express concerns.

House Republicans have long sought more aggressive tree removal from national forest lands. Legislation in the last Congress would have required the government to increase significantly the amount of timber it offers for sale each year. The lawmakers say more aggressive timbering would make for a healthier forest and improve rural economies. But such mandates went nowhere in the Senate and prompted a veto threat from the White House.

This year, the Republican-led push is focused on excluding certain projects from an environmental review and by making a lawsuit to stop a project potentially much more expensive to file. The goal is to speed up timber harvests and the removal of underbrush the U.S. Forest Service deemed necessary. The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to vote on the bill on Wednesday.

When the U.S. Forest Service currently wants to undertake major work on a national forest, it talks with stakeholders such as the timber industry, local residents and environmental groups to develop a plan that addresses their concerns and uses the best science available. But, the process often takes too long and ends in a lawsuit, said a memorandum written by Republican staff for the House Natural Resources Committee.

"These policies may be making environmental law firms rich, but they are killing our national forest," said Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., chairman of the House subcommittee that oversees federal lands issues.

Democrats say they worry the legislation eroded hard-fought protections and will allow major projects to go forward without a proper review on the effect on the environment.

Under the proposed legislation, many projects fewer than 15,000 acres would be excluded from the required environmental review if the projects were designed to reduce hazardous fuel loads and disease, protect watersheds or improve critical habitat. That's five times the current limit of 3,000 acres.

Also, groups suing the federal government over a thinning project would often have to buy an insurance bond in the event they lose so that the federal government could recoup the expense of defending itself in court.

Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, did not take a position on the legislation during a hearing last week, but said he was encouraged by some goals of the bill.

Robert Bonnie, an undersecretary who oversees the Forest Service, told the Associated Press that some of the GOP's approaches are "interesting and we want to engage in the conversation."

But both men emphasized that the biggest problems they face are budgetary. Fires are eating up so much of the agency's budget that it has 39 percent fewer employees than it had nearly two decades ago.

"We're taking people out of the field that put together the projects to reduce fire in the first place," Bonnie said. "So even if you give the Forest Service a bunch of new tools and tool boxes, we don't have enough people on the ground to reach the type of scale we need. So we have to fix the fire budget."

Rep. Niki Tsongas, D-Mass., said that limiting environmental reviews can help in specific situations, "but this bill goes too far."

Nearly three dozen environmental groups wrote McClintock and Tsongas to oppose the bill, including the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and Defenders of Wildlife. “Under the pretext of ‘forest health’ and ‘collaboration,’ the bill does the opposite by moving toward analysis-free, high-risk production-based logging on our national forests and reducing collaboration,” the groups wrote.

Kyle Tisdell, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, said groups that end up suing the federal government to stop a project must take part in an extensive public participation process before they can go to court. He said the additional hurdle of requiring an insurance bond would have a substantial chilling effect on the public’s ability to engage the government and take their case to a final arbiter.

“These organizations operate on shoestring budgets for the most part,” Tisdell said.

The USDA’s Bonnie also expressed concern about requiring groups suing the department to acquire a surety bond.

“It’s important the public still have the ability to access the courts,” Bonnie said. “The best approach we have to reduce litigation is these collaborative efforts on the ground.”

Lift ticket revenues boost Vail Resorts in Q3

By Ben Miller, Denver Business Journal

Lift ticket revenue grew by more than 13 percent at Vail Resorts Inc. in the third quarter.

But the company still missed analysts' expectations.

Broomfield, Colo.-based Vail reported third-quarter total revenue grew to \$579.3 million, and earnings were \$3.56 per diluted share, from total revenue of \$543 million, and earnings of \$3.18 per diluted share a year earlier.

Read the whole story