

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Raley's, Bel-Air and Nob Hill stores are offering discounted tickets to the 26th annual American Century Championship, the July 14-19 celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Stateline.
- Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for this week.
- Racing Tahoe is the next exhibit at the Tahoe Maritime Museum in Homewood. It opens June 5.
- The financial state of Douglas County will be presented June 11 at 6pm at the Carson Valley Inn.
- South Lake Tahoe and Lake Valley fire departments are having a meeting about South Lake Tahoe's Community Wildfire Protection Plan on June 11 at 11am at the Fire Training Center, 1100 Lyons Ave., No. A-4.

Top court overturns online threats case conviction

By Adam Liptak, New York Times

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday made it harder to prosecute people for threats made on Facebook and other social media, reversing the conviction of a Pennsylvania man who directed brutally violent language against his estranged wife.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., writing for the majority, said prosecutors must do more than prove that reasonable people would view statements as threats. The defendant's state of mind matters, the chief justice wrote, though he declined to say just where the legal line is drawn.

Chief Justice Roberts wrote for seven justices, grounding his opinion in criminal-law principles concerning intent rather than the First Amendment's protection of free speech. The majority opinion was modest, even cryptic.

Read the whole story

Time to work on Van Sickle Connector Trail

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association will celebrate the 23rd anniversary of National Trails Day on June 6 from 10am-2pm.

American Hiking Society's National Trails Day is the country's largest celebration of trails.

TRTA is putting on a trail building day to complete maintenance work on the Van Sickle Connector Trail on the South Shore. For this special workday the Tahoe Rim Trail Association will be providing lunch for all of our pre-registered volunteers.

For more information, contact Morgan Fessler at morganf@tahoerimtrail.org or 775.298.4489.

NHP targeting drivers who are speeding

Between now and June 21, Nevada's Joining Forces law enforcement team will be cracking down on speeding drivers throughout the state.

In an effort to save lives, Nevada Highway Patrol is reminding motorists to slow down. Law enforcement agencies throughout Nevada will be working overtime through June 21 enforcing speed limit laws.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speed was a factor in almost a third of passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes in 2013. In addition, most of these crashes occurred during nighttime hours.

According to NHTSA, the consequences of driving too fast include:

- Greater potential for loss of vehicle control
- Reduced effectiveness of occupant protection equipment
- Increased stopping distance when the driver perceives a danger
- Increased degree of crash severity leading to more debilitating injuries
- Unexpected economic and psychological implications

of a speed-related crash.

Bill would honor fallen EDC marine

A bill honoring an El Dorado County resident who died in 2012 fighting in Afghanistan passed the House and now moves to the Senate.

HR 979, a bill to honor Marine Staff Sgt. Sky Mote of El Dorado was introduced by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Granite Bay. It designates a mountain peak in the John Muir Wilderness, under which the Mote family gathered to camp every year, a Sky Point. Every member of the California congressional delegation is a co-sponsor of the bill.

Mote was awarded the Navy Cross, Purple Heart, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons and three Good Conduct Medals.

His nine-year service included a deployment to Iraq and two deployments to Afghanistan.

Nevada Legislature OKs record budget, adjourns

By Sandra Chereb and Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Legislature came to a halt at midnight Monday, capping a day that saw approval of a record \$1.1 billion general fund tax package to fund Gov. Brian Sandoval's aggressive education package and a dizzying day of dealmaking.

When combined with \$336 million directed to the state school fund, the total tax measure stretches to \$1.4 billion. With two hours left in the session, the Assembly gave final approval to the last of five budget bills authorizing Sandoval's \$7.3 billion two-year general fund spending plan.

Committees met on short notice and on the chamber floors throughout the day. Lobbyists and lawmakers pitched amendments to bills. And the Senate and Assembly processed bills until the very end.

Once the clock struck midnight, anything twisting in the wind died. The Senate adjourned for a final time, sine die, about 12:18am.

Read the whole story

Legislature wants NHP

officers to wear cameras

By Associated Press

CARSON CITY – Nevada lawmakers have approved a measure requiring all Nevada Highway Patrol troopers to wear portable body cameras by 2016.

Assembly members voted to approve SB111 on Monday, and the measure now goes to Gov. Brian Sandoval for approval.

The measure is sponsored by Democratic Sen. Aaron Ford and transfers nearly \$1.3 million over two years to outfit more than 400 troopers with portable body cameras.

The bill requires the highway patrol to have regulations in place for troopers wearing the cameras by July 2016.

Lawmakers approved AB162 earlier in May, which requires police to set certain regulations on wearing portable body cameras and clarifies that footage captured on the cameras is a public record.

Stateline casino worker accused of stealing winnings

By Associated Press

STATELINE – A Lake Tahoe casino employee has been arrested on suspicion of theft after police said he made off with a bundle of \$100 bills totaling \$10,000 that had been accidentally dropped by a gambler.

Douglas County sheriff's deputies say the gambler had won \$70,000 and was walking to an elevator from the Harrah's Lake Tahoe casino floor when he dropped the wad of cash early Wednesday.

Contract janitorial worker Richard Ferrer is accused of sweeping the money into a dustpan, then heading to the employee break room.

The entire incident was caught on tape and the suspect told security personnel he stashed the money in a garbage can, where all but \$100 was recovered.

The 36-year-old Ferrer told deputies he intended to turn the money over to his supervisor at his next break except for \$100, which he planned to keep to himself. That \$100 was found under the same garbage can.

The policy for the Stateline casino and the contractor calls for employees to turn such money over to security.

Muir's heir keeping naturalist's legacy alive

By Linda Fine Conaboy

Many who live near or play in the Sierra are familiar with John Muir, but his great-great-grandson, not so much. However, Robert Hanna is a name to know for those with an interest in the outdoors.

Hanna, who works for California's Assembly Republican Caucus, knows the woods and the mountains and the flowers and the trees. And he knows all about his great-great-granddad,

although, of course, the two never met.

During a May 30 talk presented by the Friends of the Library to a full house at the South Lake Tahoe Library, Hanna gave an overview of all things Muir. Hanna offered more than what is usually presented about the famous Scottish naturalist. He painted an in-depth view of his family from Muir's birth in 1838 in Dunbar, Scotland, to the present.



Robert Hanna has become an expert on all things John Muir. Photo/Denise Haerr

"I grew up learning about John Muir in a different way, from a family perspective," he said. "I wanted to create a story of John and his legacy in-depth. I wanted to look at family history in a way that has not been seen before."

And that's what he did in his slide show, consisting of more than 100 images, displaying Muir's sundry sides and personalities and introducing the audience to a no-nonsense, seemingly tough and resilient man and the large family, who throughout the years, have always supported him and his ideals. Hanna tossed out many vignettes and lots of narrative describing a large and boisterous group that he came to know through many family reunions staged mainly at the family's large ranch holdings in Martinez.

"A lot of people think John Muir was born old," Hanna laughed, referring to the often stern demeanor he presented in

photographs.

However, when you learn about his early life in Scotland and later, in Wisconsin, perhaps there's a reason for his unsmiling face. Muir was raised by a stern and religious father who mandated that he memorize and repeat nearly three-quarters of the Bible by the time he was 14. He also was required to perform myriad chores on the family farm; in fact, farming was, in his father's mind, to be young John's lot in life.

Little did he realize that his son was not destined to become a farmer. Turns out what young John loved most of all was books and machines – especially those machines he invented himself. Like the self-settling table saw and the barometer he constructed from a water clock powered by a stream on the family farm.

Then there was the clock desk, a contraption that not only roused a student out of bed at a pre-set hour, but then automatically opened and closed various school books at designated times. He designed what he called a “loafer chair”, a device abhorred by any who might wish to slack off during the day. It soon became apparent that Muir was fascinated by clocks and incorporated them into many of his “timely” inventions.

He created some of these at the University of Wisconsin where they were discovered by Ezra Carr and his wife, Jeanne, who became his friend and encouraged him to put his ideas into print and were to play a pivotal role in his later life. The Carrs also introduced young John to Ralph Waldo Emerson, who also became his life-long friend.

The early adventures of John Muir were always interesting and always tempered with a distracting need to make enough money to feed himself. He left the university in 1863 for a foot tour of Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Canada; a pivotal trek

that Hanna said led to Muir's devotion to and love of nature.

The loss of sight in both eyes and the eventual regaining of his vision led him to become extremely introspective. During this episode, he made a pact with God that if his sight returned, he would dedicate himself to nature, according to Hanna. He kept his word to God.

A 1,000-mile trek to Florida gained him a renewed closeness to Mother Nature and also, unfortunately, a raging bout of malaria. His recovery found him journeying to San Francisco – followed by a walking trip to Yosemite. The rest might be colloquially termed as history.

It is Hanna's belief that time in nature can heal many ills and time spent with others in nature can bring about closeness and a bonding not to be gained elsewhere. For example, Muir cemented his relationship with Emerson during the poet's brief visit to Yosemite; he was able to convince President Theodore Roosevelt to designate Yosemite a national park in 1890 after a rewarding trip throughout Yosemite's vast wildness.

It is said that Roosevelt called his excursion with Muir, "some of the best three days in my life."

Lest he become too much a hermit in the wilds, the Carr family lured Muir out of the woods and introduced him to Louie Strentzel, whom he married. He moved to the family farm in Martinez, made its orchard extremely profitable, thereby, finally becoming a man of money, and raised his two daughters there.

He was on his way back to Martinez, via train, when he developed pneumonia and died in Los Angeles in 1914 at age 76.

One issue Muir fought hardest for was the battle to save the glacial Hetch Hetchy Valley, which lies in the northeastern part of Yosemite National Park. Muir lost his fight and the O'Shaughnessy Dam was constructed 20 years after his death, in

1934, on the Tuolumne River, flooding the entire valley. The water stored there, to this day, travels 167 miles to San Francisco and remains The City's main water source.

At the end of the fight Hetch Hetchy fight it is said that Muir weighed only 85 pounds. But in the end, he lost; however, now, his great-great-grandson is in the trenches, following his famous relative's path, doing what he can to convince powerful lobbyists and anyone else who will listen, to drain the Hetch Hetchy Valley and store the water downstream.

"It's political and it's a big fight," Hanna said. "It was wrong to destroy an icon within a national park. I'm going to keep fighting the good fight for as long as it takes."

Hanna said that besides fighting some good fights, he's happy now to be telling Muir stories and sharing Muir's legacy. He closed his presentation with one of his favorite Muir quotes, said to be uttered after the defeat of the Hetch Hetchy project: "No matter, for I've had a grand life in these divine mountains and I may yet do something for those coming after me."

Letter: Ski patrollers help at Bread & Broth

To the community,

"Heavenly Ski Patrol welcomes the opportunity to serve our community in times of need. We appreciate all of the effort toward feeding the hungry and feel privileged to be a part of it today."

These were the collective words of Heavenly Ski Patrol members Jo Cain-Stiles, David E. Hellod and Nate Ludwig. These three ski patrol members were the volunteers representing the Heavenly Ski Patrol, which sponsored the hot and nutritious meal served by Bread & Broth at the May 18 evening dinner.

Approximately 95 meals were served by the welcoming ski patrol members. As a nonprofit, all volunteer organization, B&B provides full course meals, giveaway food bags and to go servings every Monday evening at St. Theresa Church Grace Hall and provides a smaller meal at its Second Serving on Fridays at the Lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church.

For several years now, the Heavenly Ski Patrol organization has been hosting two adopt A Day of Nourishments annually. As always, the members from the ski patrol are really helpful with the dinner setup and stay to the very end of the dinner service helping with the dinner's cleanup. Bread & Broth would like to thank the Heavenly Ski Patrol for its efforts to help those in need by providing the funds and giving their time to serve meals that ease hunger in the Lake Tahoe South Shore community.

To help B&B as a donor or sponsor, contact me at 530.542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth