

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Opening night at the Boathouse Theater on the South Shore will feature Little Faith on June 22 at 7:30pm. This R&B, soul and Gospel collective is expected to sell out. Tickets will be available starting April 1 **online**.
 - The free Science Expo Family Night is April 5, 4:30-6:30pm at Lake Tahoe Community College. There will be hands-on science investigations, experiments, and demonstrations for all ages. This year's activities focus on life science, health and nutrition.
 - Greater Nevada Mortgage, serving the Sierra Nevada region since 2001, has received the 2017 International Service Excellence Award in the Small Business category by the Customer Service Institute of America.
 - Nevada Highway Patrol has a pedestrian safety campaign going on now through March 31. Law enforcement team statewide will be issuing citations to pedestrians and motorists who are breaking traffic safety laws.
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SLT's VHR fines redefining town's image

By Carolyn Said, San Francisco Chronicle

The knock on the front door of the South Lake Tahoe vacation rental was a surprise.

It was the first family getaway together for Gus Pries and his

extended family. With six adults, four children ranging from 3 months to 5 years old, suitcases, snow gear and groceries, the San Jose residents took three cars for their Presidents Day weekend trip.

A police officer said they were receiving a \$1,000 ticket for having one too many cars on site, and the property's owner would be fined an additional \$1,000. The family members' explanation that it was just temporary and they planned to move the third car fell on deaf ears, Pries said.

"It's preposterous and unfair," said Pries, a San Jose dentist. "I've never been treated so poorly as a tourist. It's not like we were having a big party or the 3-year-olds were doing a beer bong."

Read the whole story

Sibling trio to bring music to LTCC

Derik Nelson and Family will be at the Lake Tahoe Community College Duke Theater beginning at 7pm March 23.

Siblings Derik, Riana, and Dalten have been performing together since childhood. They've garnered more than 3.6 million views on YouTube, performed in more than 90 cities across the country and reached over 50,000 students of all ages with educational music workshops and fundraising assemblies.

Admission will be at the door beginning at 6:15pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Adult tickets are \$15 and children (through high

school) \$5.

Derik Nelson and Family will be performing in the South Shore schools the week of March 20-23.

4 feet of Sierra snow possible this week

By Benjy Egel, Sacramento Bee

An atmospheric river is predicted to dump more rain on Southern California and the Central Coast than any other storm this year, and is expected to drop up to 4 feet of snow in the Sierra Nevada and 2 inches of rain in Sacramento before dissipating over the weekend.

The National Weather Service expects a weak preliminary storm to hit Tuesday afternoon. Light rain and snow above 5,000-6,000 feet elevation is expected before a short break Wednesday morning, followed by a second system's arrival that afternoon.

Read the whole story

Inaugural Truckee Craw Thaw

Music Festival in April

A New Orleans-inspired spring festival, the inaugural Truckee Craw Thaw Music Festival, will bring a lineup of American roots-inspired musicians, Cajun-style street fare and more.

The April 27-28 event will be in downtown Truckee.

Festivities kick off that Friday with two live bands set up on Bridge Street outside Moody's Bistro. The entertainment will be complemented by a selection of Cajun-style street fare.

On Saturday, there will be music, food and games designed to be a fun event for the whole family.

For more information, go **online**.

Opinion: SLT deserves better council members

By Kathryn Reed

Thank goodness the employees of South Lake Tahoe are proficient at their jobs because the elected officials are anything but that.

Two employees report directly to the five council members – the city manager and the city attorney. This council has managed to run both of these women off.

One has to wonder if the council's actions will spill over to the department heads and then down the ladder.

Former City Manager Nancy Kerry assembled a capable team, having hired all but one of the directors. Plus, there are employees who have been with the city for decades.

Still, it depends where one works as to whether things are chugging along smoothly or sputtering in chaos.

Part of this has to do with the alleged poison pill who helped usher the city manager out the door.

Remember how on the last council meeting **Mayor Wendy David blew it** with calling a special closed session meeting? It was not agendaized properly so it could not be held on March 6.

On March 10, *Lake Tahoe News* emailed her asking: Was the meeting solely your idea? David's response was, "No, I was contacted by our city clerk and asked to call this meeting because of an anticipated litigation. Only the mayor can call for a special meeting. I gave my approval to call this special meeting."

This is highly unusual. Anticipated litigation usually goes through the city manager or city attorney. Though, the city clerk could have been the one bringing the litigation.

David was also asked if the litigation item would be on a future agenda – after all, somehow it was so urgent it required a special meeting. David said she didn't know. If she doesn't know, who the heck does?

It's not on the agenda for today, nor was that meeting ever rescheduled any time in the last two weeks.

So, one has to wonder did the threat of litigation disappear with Kerry's resignation? In other words, did the city clerk's "problem" no longer work for the city.

The clerk, Suzie Alessi, has an interesting position. She's elected. She has no set hours. She can come and go when she wants. She has the luxury to show up for work or not. No

matter what, she still collects her paycheck.

Of the 478 incorporated cities in California, about 90 have an elected city clerk. Maybe it's time South Lake Tahoe joined the majority of cities and did away with this elected official and brought in a professional who would be accountable to a real boss, not the electorate who pays no attention and has almost zero recourse to get rid of this individual.

As for the city attorney, she is choosing to quit. It's possible the council would have shown her the door after the questionable legal advice she's provided. If only there were some teeth to the Brown Act. It's up to the district attorney to enforce the open meeting law, and he's up for re-election this year – though he is being challenged by one of his deputies.

Anyway, interim City Attorney Nira Doherty, who was once the deputy city attorney here, has given her notice. Her staff report for today's meeting says, "I recommend the City Council discuss its city attorney position as I will be returning to my practice with various other cities and am unable to serve [as] the city's permanent city attorney."

Doherty is a partner with Burke, Williams and Sorensen. That firm was hired last fall to take over when Tom Watson left the city. Doherty was assigned to South Lake Tahoe because she was familiar with its issues. The firm has also worked for the city as special counsel for various cases.

This means the city is in need of a city manager and city attorney.

The City Council seems to have run both women out of town for different reasons, and reasons that remain shrouded in secrecy.

It's a bit of a soap opera these days with the electeds – it's more like "Days of Our Lives" or "As the World Turns."

As one staff member told *Lake Tahoe News*, “Now we are faced once again with leadership change, which will delay any forward progress on any key issues as new leadership will be very conservative until a certain comfort zone is realized. Couple that with a council leadership change coming in November and forward progress may be a long time in limbo. We as staff are not in chaos, we know what we are doing, and we know what needs to be done. It just seems that there is always personal conflict invading plans and process. No holistic thinking within the leadership.”

Some fear a paralysis is beginning to grip the city which will stall the momentum that had been generated under Kerry’s leadership. The group in town that is so good at saying no to everything, but never has any answers or solutions, might be able to take over with the leadership vacuum at the council level.

It’s so bizarre that on today’s agenda is the item “discussion and possible direction/action regarding a cannabis ordinance and regulations.” There is no staff report – no supporting documents.

Lake Tahoe News asked David, Doherty and acting City Manager Jeff Meston to explain where the supporting documents are and what exactly the council would be taking action on. No one responded.

Ultimately, an agenda is up to the city manager to approve.

The council can’t legally vote on anything regarding the cannabis ordinance because the public has not been made aware of what would be voted on. They can, however, give direction.

Councilmembers Brooke Laine and Tom Davis were the cannabis subcommittee members. Laine has been lobbying for her colleagues to move forward with writing an ordinance for recreational marijuana. Her colleagues, for reasons they have not expressed, are dragging their feet and seem to be playing

politics as they let Laine flounder by herself.

Three members of this council are up for re-election in November – David, Davis and Austin Sass.

My predictions:

- David won't run because at 70 years old she's never lost an election and doesn't have the ego to handle doing so now. She will have to be accountable for running one of the better city managers out of town and spending about \$300,000 in taxpayer money to do so, and for reasons that still have not come to light. David is a nice woman who has done wonders in the social services area, but clearly is not a leader and is so far in over her head on council it's scary. We need a leader.

- Davis will run because the council is his life. After 20 years or so, it's time for him to go. But he'll run. And depending on who else does, he just might get re-elected.

- Sass will campaign on having gotten rid of Kerry. There are so many anti-Kerry folks – many who are also in the “just say no” crowd – that they were celebrating her departure. It remains to be seen if there are enough of those people to vote for Sass.

It's time the residents of South Lake Tahoe become more engaged before it's too long of a climb to crawl out of the abyss we seem to be slipping into. Anyone can run for office when things are sailing along smoothly. True leaders jump in to right the ship, not sink it or let it flounder.

Here's to hoping there are at least three new names on the ballot in November for South Lake Tahoe City Council because from where I'm sitting I'm scared for our little town based on who's running the show today.

Out of the doghouse, into the bed

By Jen A. Miller, New York Times

For most Americans, dogs are no longer relegated to the doghouse. According to the American Pet Products Association, an industry trade group, almost 60 percent of dog owners say they regard their pet as a child or member of the family. And many let their dogs snuggle up to sleep right in their human owners' beds, often alongside their owners.

But is sleeping in the same bed with your dog a good idea? Wouldn't they be disruptive to our sleep?

According to a recent study, not really.

[Read the whole story](#)

Bodies found at Fallen Leaf Lake identified

Officials have positively identified the two bodies found last year in Fallen Leaf Lake. One had been there since 2004, the other since 2001.

The body of Cynthia Ellis, aka Cynthia Prehoda, of South Lake Tahoe was retrieved Aug. 29, 2017.

Her son, David Ward, had drowned at this South Shore lake in 1996. Five years later his 71-year-old mother left a suicide note saying she was “going to join her son,” according to the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

A forensic anthropologist was unable to determine a cause of death.

Two months later the crew from **Bruce’s Legacy** found the body of 74-year-old Michael Whalen.

Whalen went missing in 2004 after traveling to the Lake Tahoe area from Florida. He arrived on the South Shore in his van carrying a brown, wood colored canoe. Whalen’s van was located near Fallen Leaf Lake in late 2004. The whereabouts of his canoe are unknown.

The small anchor and rope around Whalen’s legs were consistent with an anchor used for a canoe, according to El Dorado County sheriff’s detectives.

His cause of death remains unknown. There was no evidence of foul play.

Anyone with information on Whalen, the location of his canoe, or any canoe found at Fallen Leaf Lake in 2004 or 2005 is asked to call El Dorado County sheriff’s Detective Rich Horn at 530.642.4729 or Detective Damian Frisby at 530.573.3022.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Nature hits it out of the

ballpark



Skiers have been flocking to Tahoe area resorts. Photo/Sierra-at-Tahoe

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

Nature bats last and the weather in March is hitting a grand slam for the outdoors.

The latest storms to sweep across the Bay Area, Sierra Nevada and Northern California are a game changer for the snowpack, reservoir levels – and the imminent blossoming of spring across the parklands and greenbelt in the Bay Area.

In a two-week span, the bottom of the ninth for winter, the storms arrived in time to transform the prospects for camping, hiking, boating, fishing and wilderness for the spring and summer recreation season.

Read the whole story

Nevadans with misdemeanor pot convictions want records expunged

By Colton Lochhead, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevadans with past misdemeanor pot convictions can have their records sealed away, but the Clark County district attorney isn't ready to wave a magic wand to make it happen.

"I'm not going to take an active role in seeking the vacation or seeking the dismissals," Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said in a recent interview.

That's a different approach than several other jurisdictions have been taking.

Read the whole story