

Ultrarunner to talk about TRT

On May 19, Alpenglow Sports will host the fifth installment of the Education Series created by the Donner Party Mountain Runners.

Created in 2013, the Donner Party Mountain Runners is a grassroots running club that exists to inform and inspire mountain runners in the Truckee-Tahoe region.

Part of their mission involves educational outreach to the local community. Board member and local ultrarunner Gretchen Brugman will tell her tale of through-running the Tahoe Rim Trail. The presentation will tell the story of five runners who spent four days running the Tahoe Rim Trail, covering about 40 miles each day. The runners ended each day with dinner, a hot shower, and a hotel room – popularized as “glam” trail running.

The presentation will feature photos and stories from the trip, as well as detail the training, planning, equipment, and logistics involved to pull off such an endeavor. A short question and answer session will follow the conclusion of the show.

The cost is \$3. There is no charge for Donner Party Mountain Runner club members.

Alpenglow Sports is at 415 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City. Talk starts at 6:30pm.

Nev. to pay millions for storm-water runoff prevention

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – The cost of complying with an Environmental Protection Agency audit that found failures by the Nevada Transportation Department in addressing storm water runoff issues is coming due at \$10 million for 42 new agency positions, equipment and travel.

Another \$3 million will be spent on storm water upgrades at 15 highway maintenance facilities and more training for agency staff to comply with provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.

In all, 68 positions will be established to deal with the storm water issue, state lawmakers were told in a budget hearing last week.

In a site inspection of two facilities in Sparks and Lake Tahoe in November, EPA officials identified continuing problems, including the potential of dirty water runoff at the agency's maintenance facility at Spooner Summit at Lake Tahoe that could have made its way into Lake Tahoe. A similar concern was identified at a parking lot at the Sparks facility that could affect the Truckee River.

Read the whole story

Nevada slips in ranking for pre-K access

By Neal Morton, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Bucking a national trend of states increasing their investment for pre-kindergarten programs, Nevada continued to lose ground in its percentage of children enrolled and per-child spending in early childhood education.

A new study from the National Institute for Early Education Research found Nevada fell one position to 37th among 41 states for its level of access to quality early childhood education.

Only 3.8 percent of 4-year-olds in Nevada were enrolled in pre-K last year, according to the report. Nevada serves no 3-year-olds.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Caltrans will talk about the 2019 Echo Summit closure on May 21 at 8:30am at the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce board meeting.

- Cave Rock boat ramp will be closed May 13 for routine maintenance.

- Over the Edge Sports, which specializes in selling mountain bikes, will open a store in South Lake Tahoe on May 22.
 - El Dorado County Supervisor Shiva Frentzen is having a town hall meeting May 14 from 5:30-7pm at Pioneer Fire Station 38, 7061 Mt. Aukum Road, Somerset.
 - Without Placer County's contribution, the North Lake Tahoe Water Shuttle can't operate. The supes voted not to give \$149,000 to help fund the shuttle that has been operating since summer 2012. Before the service started the forecast was more than 22,000 people would use the boat; 3,165 used it last summer.
-

Customer service workshop in S. Tahoe

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and South Lake Tahoe are offering a customer service workshop June 3 from 1-5pm.

The goal is for business owners, managers and their staff to discover creative approaches for delivering service that will wow customers and turn them into raving fans. Workshop topics include: making customers feel important (and why you need to), how to avoid and prevent some of the most common customer interaction blunders, how to manage stressful situations more successfully and effective techniques for building customer loyalty and earning five star reviews.

The cost of the workshop is \$20 for chamber members and \$40 for non-members.

The workshop will be at the chamber's conference room, 169 Highway 50, Stateline.

For more detailed information or to register for the event, go online.

Taxes a conundrum for pot industry

By Jack Healy, New York Times

DENVER – Money was pouring into Bruce Nassau's five Colorado marijuana shops when his accountant called with the bad news: The 2014 tax season was approaching, and Mr. Nassau could not rely on the galaxy of deductions that other businesses use to reduce their tax bills. He was going to owe the Internal Revenue Service a small fortune.

"I had to write a check for \$275,000," Mr. Nassau said. "Unbelievable."

The country's rapidly growing marijuana industry has a tax problem. Even as more states embrace legal marijuana, shops say they are being forced to pay crippling federal income taxes because of a decades-old law aimed at preventing drug dealers from claiming their smuggling costs and couriers as business expenses on their tax returns.

Read the whole story

Brown expected to boost school spending

By Associated Press

Lawmakers expect Gov. Jerry Brown to suggest spending more tax dollars on public schools and community colleges while asking for more money to be set aside for a rainy day when he releases his updated budget this week.

But with a growing \$3 billion surplus, Democrats who control the Legislature will jockey to increase funding for child care, higher education and other social programs.

Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins said those areas have suffered spending cuts over the last decade and while lawmakers “know we’re not going to get everything we want,” she and other Democratic leaders “expect good news.”

Brown already has proposed a record \$113 billion general fund spending plan, but he’s revising that upward as the state has collected more revenue.

California’s budget has benefited from the recovering economy and temporary tax increases. It’s not clear if that boost will continue, since much of it has come from taxes on capital gains and large corporate bonuses.

And as the state takes drastic steps to conserve water amid the ongoing drought, Brown could propose higher spending to expand water supplies and fight wildfires.

Already this year, the Democratic governor has signed emergency legislation authorizing \$1 billion for water infrastructure, including flood control and water recycling, and other programs.

Senate Democrats now are pushing Brown to spend more on water

delivery upgrades and wastewater reuse. Republicans want to speed dam construction.

In addition to water spending, Atkins anticipates about \$1 billion in extra discretionary spending that could go toward social programs.

Brown, however, is skeptical. "I'd like them to show it to me, that'd be very interesting," he said last week.

The governor, early in his final term, has been determined to maintain some of California's surplus. That restraint has created an odd dynamic that has generally left Republicans pleased and members of his own party disappointed.

By voter-approved law, the state must spend the lion's share of the surplus on public schools and filling California's savings fund.

But Democrats, who control both houses of California's Legislature and don't need Republican support to pass the budget, are reiterating their desire for child care and higher education spending.

Advocates, meanwhile, have been pushing to restore pay cut during the recession for providers who treat Medi-Cal patients. Senate Democrats want health care for immigrants in the country illegally. And Atkins, a San Diego Democrat, has proposed an income tax credit for low-income, working families.

Sen. Mark Leno, a San Francisco Democrat who chairs the Senate's budget committee, said the majority party is hoping for more discretionary spending, but he also wants to tame expectations. During the last budget cycle, the state increased funding for free preschool and daycare for low-income families, but not as much as Democrats wanted.

"I don't want to promise you things that I can't deliver," he

told a crowd of mothers and childcare providers who rallied at the Capitol for increased state subsidies last week.

Bernadette Yabadi, 45, who emigrated from Congo to Santa Rosa with her family five years ago, was among hundreds of parents advocating for more funding. Yabadi, who was a public defender in her home country, said she would love to have childcare for her 2-year-old son, Peter.

“I need to work,” Yabadi said, “and help out my family.”

Both Democrats and Republicans are pleased to be able to increase public school funding, though GOP members and some Democrats want tenure reforms in light of a court ruling that struck down teacher job protections.

In January, Brown proposed increasing per pupil spending by 3 percent, from \$9,300 this year to \$9,600 next year, and he proposed increasing community college funding by more than \$500 per student, an 8 percent increase.

Those figures are expected to go even higher when he releases his budget Thursday.

Common Core not up to code in Nevada

By Ian Whitaker, Las Vegas Sun

The debut of computerized Common Core tests in Nevada has been a disaster.

State and school district officials watched helplessly for more than a week as problems with the testing company's

servers prevented thousands of students from logging on to take the Smarter Balanced Assessment. In Clark County, efforts to rearrange busy school schedules to take the federally mandated test were in vain as nonstop problems forced the district to halt testing indefinitely.

In California, a million students took the same test without a hitch.

So what went wrong here?

Most education officials in Nevada blame Measured Progress, the state-contracted testing company tasked with hosting the test on its servers and collecting the results for analysis.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Paradise Park on unsure footing

By Kathryn Reed

MEYERS – There is no one to do maintenance, mow the lawn or book events at Tahoe Paradise Park.

This is because the board fired Steve Dunn, the park manager.

“It was a personnel issue,” Sue Novasel, Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District chairwoman, told *Lake Tahoe News*. She would not go into specifics about why Dunn was ousted last month from a job he had had for more than a decade.

Most of the board is new, with Judy Clot the veteran having been on the board since 2007. The others – Novasel, Joe

Cardinale, Victor Babbitt, and Peter Nelligan – have been on the board less than a year.

Concerns have arisen with Dunn making money on the side. At a board meeting he admitted he bought chairs that he would lease to wedding parties. He was supposed to be the keeper of all the district's records, but the board is having a hard time getting their hands on everything.



Tahoe Paradise Park's board is running the facility without a manager. Photo/LTN

Part of Dunn's financial package included living in a house on-site for free. He took in a base salary of more than \$30,000 a year. However, he was also entitled to 30 percent of every wedding that was booked as well as 30 percent from other group rental fees that were collected.

For the most part this was a seasonal job with a year-round salary. Dunn has until May 16 to move out. Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News* no board member has been inside the house to know what kind of condition it is in. Members aren't sure of the exact square footage and don't know what they could collect if they were to rent it or just to know the value if it were to be part of compensation package again.

Taxpayer dollars through Measure S – the recreation bond passed in 2000 – paid for a new roof and gas heater for that house.

In 2006 El Dorado County Auditor-Controller Joe Harn audited the Measure S books.

“The only unusual expenditures our examination has revealed to date related to the construction and acquisition fund by the Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District,” Harn wrote in a June 26, 2006, letter to then county Supervisor Norma Santiago, who was on the TPRID board. TPRID had spent nearly \$30,000 on a skid steer loader and snowblower and \$4,300 to replace the roof.

The district receives \$50,000 a year from Measure S/R. In the last year it has received an additional \$10,000 from the bond measure.

Today, the district is grappling with how to go forward. The board agreed last week to solicit bids for landscaping, event planning and camp host. (Board member Nelligan is in charge of getting information from perspective workers; he is at 209.985.8776.)

The camp host idea was brought up as a way to have someone at the park on a regular basis at little or no expense.

The board hopes to take action on those items at the May 28 meeting.

What to do about maintenance issues will first be addressed by a subcommittee and then brought back to the full board at the end of the month.

A brigade of volunteers is also being sought so some of the work is done in house without a check needing to be written.

“We are looking at other models and seeing where we go next,” Novasel said in regards to the caretaker’s house.

The bulk of the May 8 board meeting centered on how to get at least some of the work done that Dunn had been doing. The short-term answer is hiring multiple individuals. The long-term solution is still to be decided.

Also to be decided is if the park will continue to be in the wedding business. Some board members and park users believe the clubhouse should be used more for locals. But weddings are a revenue source, so others question the logic of turning off that cash spigot.

Letter: Public wreaks havoc in Alpine County



Some of the trash found in
Alpine County.
Photo/Provided

To the community,

So sad to have to contact you all under these circumstances, but I felt it important to share with you my most recent experience in Alpine County. On Mother's Day, we rode our horses into the Carson River Hot Springs from the north on a

little used trail as we have done for almost 20 years. Used by hikers, mountain bikes and horses for many years this area is closed to motor vehicle use, but unfortunately vehicles have begun to push from this direction, widening the trail and damaging vegetation. This was only the warm up to what we would find at Markleeville's big attraction on the Carson River.

The pictures I took speak for themselves, but everybody at the local, state and federal level should be embarrassed by the level of resource destruction, trash and filth that has been visited upon this beautiful place. Live trees are being hacked to pieces for firewood, great piles of trash and broken glass are everywhere, and shooters have left thousands of spent shells littering the ground. Worse, the trash and tire tracks are now beginning to climb the once pristine northern slopes of the canyon, with broken glass and spent casing littering the hillside. We have many more photos and video if you are interested in seeing the extent of the damage. Better yet, drive there and see firsthand what people are capable of.

It is out hope that someone, one or more of you, will make it their mission to restore and protect this special place. Clearly, the unfettered access by thousands of off road users is not working. While most are probably responsible, those who are not need to held accountable. Not only does this precious resource need to be cleaned up, but also protected for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob and Tita Anderson, South Lake Tahoe