

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- More than \$98,000 was raised for the High Fives Foundation at the Silver Tie Gala.



- Sierra Expeditionary Learning School will celebrate its second annual Great Skate event at Northstar on June 5 from 4-9pm. Proceeds benefit the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District K-8 public charter.
- Nevada All State Trail Riders is having a poker ride and ice cream social on July 25 at Silver Saddle Ranch in Carson City. This is open to equestrians, bike riders and hikers, with separate trails for each division. Start at 9am with a \$20 donation per poker hand. For more info, call 775.443.8558.
- Four new yurts will be available to the public this summer at William Kent Campground in Tahoe City.
- A team from UNR is in Nepal to do research on earthquakes.

Tahoe Keys Marina preps channel for dredging



Metal poles outlining the channel leading to the Tahoe Keys Marina were put in May 5. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

After months of bickering, the channel leading to the Tahoe Keys Marina is about to be dredged.

Poles are in outlining where the dredging will take place. The boat that was to put in the silt screen had a hole in it, so that was delayed a day until Wednesday.

The marina received a permit earlier this year from Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to dredge. The hold up has been the fighting between marina owners, Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association and the Tahoe Keys Beach and Harbor Association.

An agreement from 1991 is the root of the troubles – that and distrust between the parties. The document says the marina is to pay for one-half of the dredging and the other two groups

are to equally split the other half. The marina wanted the money up front, the other groups wanted to pay upon completion.

Bid documents to do the work were not provided, so the associations did not want to blindly put up money. Plus, they didn't want to pay for something in advance in case it didn't really happen. The marina did not want to finance the project.

The original cost was estimated to be \$2.2 million, but those close to the project said that price has been reduced by about one-third.

Work will not be done by Memorial Day, which is often the start of the boating season at Lake Tahoe. There are about 600 docks on this side. While the dredging occurs there will be no boat access in or out of the marina. Boaters could launch elsewhere and tie up at a friend's dock on the homeowners' side.

No one from the marina returned multiple calls.

"The parties are actively pursuing resolution and it appears the dredging project will be completed as everyone wants," Bob Henderson, legal counsel for the marina, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The Beach and Harbor Association has a recording saying they are trying to get things worked out, but apparently are unaware the prep work for dredging started May 5.

Kirk Wooldridge, general manager of TKPOA, said there had been a "stalemate over all aspects of the project." He did not know the marina was starting to work on its channel.

The TKPOA channel is currently being dredged, with all work expected to be done May 21. It will be open to two-way boat traffic May 22 – the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, Wooldridge said.

Wooldridge explained that the sand that was dug up was placed

on the beach per state agency requirements. He told *Lake Tahoe News* the discoloration was temporary and that the dredged material is already starting to blend in with the rest of the beach.

Without the marina returning calls, it is not known where its dredged material will go. In the past it has been sucked out and put into a holding area near the Beach and Harbor Association's parking lot on Venice Drive.

It also isn't known how long this channel will be off limits. Original estimates were two months, but now boaters tell *Lake Tahoe News* it should open in June if there are no obstacles.

Another bone of contention between the marina and TKPOA is that homeowners are supposed to be able to launch for free if the boat is registered to the person whose name is on the property deed. Now the marina is saying it will cost \$90 for homeowners to launch.

Cyclists train for race despite threat of snow



Cyclists on May 5 get

acclimated to Lake Tahoe in
preparation for the May 8-9
races. Photo/LTN

Some of the 84 racers who will compete in the Amgen Tour of California Women's Race this week in South Lake Tahoe have been training on local roads.

The 14 teams of top professional women cyclists are set to race Friday and Saturday, with the start and finish at the California Lodge of Heavenly Mountain Resort.

The problem is Mother Nature may have something to say about it.

Like 2011 when the men were set to race from the South Shore, snow is in the forecast. The white stuff ended up canceling the South Shore leg.

Carol Chaplin, executive director of the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, told *Lake Tahoe News* there are contingency plans in place for Friday if the forecast for snow and rain come true. It's possible the start could be moved to the afternoon.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Test run signals start of nuclear waste shipments to Nev.

By Steve Tetreault, Las Vegas Review-Journal

WASHINGTON – After 18 months of delay to address the worries

of state officials, the Department of Energy said Monday night it will ship potent uranium waste from a federal laboratory in Tennessee for disposal in Nevada.

Officials did not give a time-line for when the shipments will begin from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to the Area 5 landfill at the Nevada National Security Site, 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

It's unlikely the Department of Energy office that transports nuclear weapons and special nuclear material will make the shipping schedule public.

Read the whole story

Cutthroats successfully reproducing in Truckee River



Federal agencies are trying to restore the Lahontan cutthroat trout to regional waters. Photo/USFWS

By Jeff DeLong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Lahontan cutthroat trout are successfully reproducing in the lower Truckee River in what experts are calling a major milestone in efforts to restore the threatened fish.

A year after cutthroats spawned up the lower Truckee from Pyramid Lake for the first time in nearly 80 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented about 1,000 newly hatched baby cutthroats swimming in the river after a second spawn this spring. They suspect as many as 45,000 may have hatched in recent weeks.

“We were able to document successful reproduction,” said Lisa Heki, complex manager for the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery. “This is a wild reproductive event. The fish are doing it on their own once again.”

Read the whole story

Reno woman shines in international race



Daron and Shannon Rahlves at the end of the May 3 race.
Photo/Balazs Gardi/Red Bull

Content Pool

In the world's only global race with a synchronized starting line and no traditional finish line, more than 101,000 runners from around the world ran the second annual Wings for Life World Run on Sunday, a race which aims to find a cure for spinal cord injury.

In the end, the last male and female running globally were Ethiopian Lemawork Ketema in Austria and Yuuko Watanabe in Japan, who ran for 49.7 miles and 35 miles, respectively, before being reeled in by a "catcher car", an innovative moving finish line that pursued the runners from behind.

In Santa Clarita, runners Thibault Baronian (34.3 miles; 2014 France male winner) and Shannon Rahlves (29.6 miles; sister of 2010 Winter Olympic freestyle skier Daron Rahlves), and Sunrise, Fla., runners Svein Risa (34.1 miles; 2014 Norway male winner) and Nathalie Vasseur (32.4 miles; 2014 France female winner) were the last running before being caught.

As top U.S. finishers, they will choose anywhere in the world to run in next year's Wings for Life World Run. In all, there were runs in 35 locations in 33 countries on six continents (all concurrent).

"This was an opportunity to support the Wings for Life Foundation and run on the team my brother Daron Rahlves put together," Shannon Rahlves, who lives in Reno, said in a statement. "I expected to run 15-18 miles, but once I knew the catcher car was getting close, I told myself, I've got to run!"

Letter: Involvement in Meyers critical

To the community,

With the upcoming Meyers Area Plan meeting on May 6 the residents of Meyers have an opportunity and a responsibility to help our future.

El Dorado County is hosting a meeting and we have to let them know what we want in terms of planning, development, recreation, safety and beyond. Now is the time as we have reached a stage where decisions will be made. Speak now, please, as the voices of many reasonable citizens will have an impact.

The area plan will govern long-term land use community plan and proposes revisions to building design and other standards while consolidating County and TRPA permitting requirements. It identifies community improvements like bike trails, signage and safety issues for pedestrians.

Everyone needs to be involved in these planning decisions. Please plan on attending the meeting this Wednesday, 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Lake Tahoe Environmental Magnet School, 1095 E. San Bernardino Ave.

Thank you,

Jim Lira, Lira's Market

Douglas County enforcing property codes

The recent warm weather provides the ideal time for people to do spring cleaning.

Douglas County code enforcement personnel are reminding the public to follow the basic code requirements for their properties. Officers will be out enforcing the rules.

Here are some things they will be looking for:

- Garbage – Store garbage in proper trash receptacles and remove from property on a weekly basis.
- Junk – Store it in your garage or in your rear yard screened with a 6-foot solid fence. Never keep it in the front yard or driveway.
- Unregistered or junk vehicles (abandoned vehicles) – Douglas County considers any unregistered and/or inoperable vehicle to be abandoned whether it is on private property or not. Store them in a garage or in a rear yard with a 6-foot solid fence.
- Dead grass and weeds (noxious vegetation) – Keep your yard mowed below 10 inches. Remove all dead vegetation from your property, including trees. In a dry year this can also be considered a fire hazard.

Some other things to do to keep a neighborhood looking nice:

- Maintain landscaping, including pruning vegetation away from sidewalks and keeping yards free from piles of debris which can harbor rodents and other vermin.
- Repair broken fences, windows, doors, siding and roofs. Recent wind storms caused some severe property damage

which must be addressed by property owners.

- Remove garbage cans from the curb as soon as possible after pick up. Store them out of sight.
- Get to know your neighbors. If they are elderly or need help, lend them a helping hand.

Should you have any questions about the code or would like to speak to someone regarding code enforcement, contact Patrick Kieva at 775.782.6214 or pkieva@co.douglas.nv.us.

Audit: Nev. Medicaid overpayments exceed \$1 mil.

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – An audit of the state Medicaid program released Monday identified more than \$1 million in overpayments and improper billings.

Legislative Counsel auditors identified \$780,000 in overpayments for behavioral health claims, and \$285,000 in overpayments and improper billings for dental claims. The audit of the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, which administers the Medicaid program, was reviewed by the Legislative Commission's Audit Subcommittee.

Examples of overbilling included a dentist who submitted 4,177 claims, or 48 percent of all claims statewide, for "emergency treatment of dental pain – minor procedure" in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Opinion: Commercializing Cinco de Mayo

By José M. Alamillo

What's with Cinco de Mayo, anyways?

Corporate advertisers treat it as the de facto Mexican Day, if not Latino Day, in this country. In 1998, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Cinco de Mayo stamp featuring two *folklórico* dancers. In 2005, Congress passed a resolution making Cinco de Mayo an official national holiday to celebrate Mexican-American heritage. And it's customary for presidents to celebrate Cinco de Mayo on the White House lawn with margaritas flowing, mariachi music playing, and dancers in brightly colored traditional costumes.

Don't they all know that Mexican Independence Day is actually Sept. 16?

Growing up in rural Zacatecas, Mexico, in the early 1970s, holidays and festivities were big community-building affairs. I attended fiestas with *tamborazo*-style band music, rodeos with *charros* showing off their roping and riding skills, and the religious procession honoring the town's patron saint. What I remember most, though, was *El Grito*, the traditional cry of "Viva Mexico!" to commemorate Mexico's independence from Spain on Sept. 16. Like Christmas, the holiday is celebrated on the eve of the big day, and the day itself. But I have no memory of Cinco de Mayo, at least not before migrating to the United States.

It was in my elementary school's bilingual education classroom in Ventura that I first learned about the holiday, which had been incorporated into lesson plans and school assemblies on cultural diversity. In high schools at the time, Mexican-American students began organizing their own Cinco de Mayo celebrations to show off their cultural pride and make a public claim of belonging.

But what does Cinco de Mayo commemorate originally? It is indeed a holiday in Mexico, to be clear, but a lesser holiday not associated with any particular form of revelry. It is the anniversary of the famous battle of Puebla, in which Mexican liberal forces defeated an occupying French army and its Mexican conservative allies during one of Mexico's serial 19th century civil wars. By helping to impose an unemployed Hapsburg prince as Mexican emperor, the French were hoping to gain a new beachhead in the Americas while the U.S. was distracted with its own epic civil war.

There are a number of competing (but not mutually exclusive) theories as to why this, of all Mexican holidays, was the one to stand out on this side of the border, in the face of ostensibly stronger contenders. One theory is that it would have been awkward for Mexicans in the U.S. to be too eager to celebrate the official independence day of another country. The generations of Mexican immigrants who came to America weren't necessarily on best terms with the authoritarian Mexican governments of yesteryear, and weren't keen to celebrate as if they were those governments' blind followers. Better to select a different one: Cinco de Mayo.

There is an additional, more prosaic, explanation for Cinco de Mayo's stature on this side of the border – and that is the fact that it is a more convenient time for migrant farmworkers to celebrate, as was driven home to me when I did doctoral research on the holiday's popularity – going strong since 1923 – in Corona.

The Southern California town once known as the “Lemon Capital of the World” was one of the earliest to celebrate Cinco de Mayo in the U.S. Mexican workers made up the majority of the labor force working in the 2,000 acres of lemon groves, 11 packinghouses, and lemon processing plant in 1930s Corona. Lemons were grown in winter months but harvested in springtime, just in time for Cinco de Mayo. The timing of the lemon harvest made Cinco de Mayo a well timed holiday, when people would welcome a reason to rest and celebrate and have a little more disposable income than usual, not to mention ideal weather. When May 5 fell on a weekday, employers paid workers early, and students were dismissed from class early to attend the festivities. As early as 1939, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, “All work in the citrus industry was suspended for the Cinco de Mayo holiday and several thousand persons came to participate in the celebration.”

Corona is typical of other agricultural communities in California that rely on Mexican farm labor during harvest time, where Cinco de Mayo became an entrenched holiday both because of what it represented and when it fell on the calendar. For example, La Habra’s Spring Citrus Fair incorporates a full day of Cinco de Mayo activities, and thousands attend the Fallbrook Avocado festival during harvest season to sample delicious guacamole and attend Cinco de Mayo festivities.

Corona’s Cinco de Mayo celebration – which continues to this day – has long sought to keep its events local, intimate, and inclusive. The morning parade still features local heroes and role models as grand marshals – for instance, the mother of a World War II hero killed in action or a Latina superior court judge – rather than outside celebrities. The town limits sponsors to local businesses and nonprofit organizations, continuing the spirit of the late 1940s, when the holiday was used to raise money to finance the first youth community center that later became the Corona Boys and Girls Club, which

provided recreation programs for kids and teenagers. Proceeds from the celebration provide college scholarships to local Latino high school students. The crowning of the Cinco de Mayo queen is not simply a beauty contest, but a way to encourage young Latinas to gain public speaking skills, gain confidence, and take on a leadership role in their communities. When organizers had trouble raising funds during the recent recession, the city stepped in to make it an official civic event – fully incorporating the Mexican holiday into American public life.

There is no beer or alcohol sponsorship of Corona's Cinco de Mayo, even though you can't talk about the popularity of the holiday everywhere else without talking about the other Corona. The corporate marketplace started pushing Cinco de Mayo as a daylong happy hour when we're all supposed to down cervezas and margaritas when it recognized the demographic growth of the Latino population in the 1980s. Corporations thought that advertising, sponsorship, and promotion of Cinco de Mayo events would enable them to tap into that young consumer market. Beer and alcohol companies led the charge by spending millions on marketing the holiday. Corona Extra (the beer – no relation to the town) alone spent \$91 million in 2013, according to Kantar Media, advertising around the holiday in both Spanish and English, calling itself "the original party beer of Cinco de Mayo."

I don't think that means there were kegs on the battlefield in Puebla, but it's an amusing image. So go have a drink on Cinco de Mayo. But when you do, take a moment to reflect on the evolution of this holiday that commemorates the Americanization of a Mexican diaspora eager to assert its own identity—and, increasingly, the Mexicanization of mainstream U.S. culture as well. *¡Salud!*

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Leisure in a California Town. He wrote this for "What It Means to Be American", a national conversation hosted by the Smithsonian and Zócalo Public Square.