

Trout season about to open in California

The general trout opener in many counties throughout California begins April 25 one hour before sunrise.

Because of the popularity of this annual event with the angling public, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is making every effort to stock trout in all accessible waters approved for planting prior to the season opener. Lingering winter conditions and this year's unprecedented drought could play a major role in determining how many rivers, creeks, lakes and reservoirs can be stocked before April 25.

Most lakes, rivers and streams have a limit of five trout per day and 10 in possession. However, regulations differ on season opening and closing dates, bag limits, minimum and maximum size limits, and gear restrictions.

Anglers are advised to check specific area regulations and opening dates in the 2015-16 California Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulation booklet online.

Anyone 16 and older must possess a valid California fishing license to fish within state lines. Freshwater fishing licenses may be purchased online.

2015 could become hottest year on record

By News 10

We are only four months into 2015 and the path to another “hottest year on record” is laid before us.

So far, 2015 has been the hottest start to a year on record for the planet. Many people on the East Coast would disagree with that statement, and they have good reason to be skeptical. The East Coast has been experiencing colder-than-average temperatures, and many locations had either their coldest winter on record or close to it.

The stark fact is the West Coast was just as extreme in the opposite direction and most of the globe was much warmer than average. Folks on the East Coast have a point, but not the point.

Read the whole story

Foreclosure numbers in Nev. a mixed message

By Eli Segall, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada's foreclosure woes showed mixed signals in the first quarter, with a jump in default notices but fewer repossessions compared to a year ago.

One in every 209 homes statewide received a foreclosure-related filing in the three months ending March 31, the third-highest rate in the nation behind Florida and Maryland, according to a new report from RealtyTrac.

Read the whole story

Community groups upset with EDC General Plan

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is considering amendments to the General Plan that could significantly affect how properties, neighborhoods, regional boundaries, and open spaces are designated.

There will be a meeting to discuss the plans on April 29 from 6:30-8pm at 2502 Country Club Drive, Cameron Park.

Opponents to the plan believe the rural nature of the towns of Diamond Springs, Camino, Pollock Pines, Cedar Grove, El Dorado Hills, Shingle Springs, Cameron Park, El Dorado and others are being threatened.

Come learn how the amendments affect traffic, zoning, open space, and more.

The meeting is sponsored by Citizens for Responsible Development in El Dorado Hills and Save Our County.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Squaw Valley has extended its season to April 26.

- The Nevada State Museum in Carson City on May 29 will put on a Demonstration of Coin Press No. 1 from 10:30am-noon and 1-3pm. Cost is \$8 for adults; free for museum members and ages 17 and under.
 - The Eldorado National Forest has extended the comment period to April 20 for the scoping phase that will guide the forest in developing an environmental impact statement for the designation of over-snow vehicle use. For more info, go online.
 - The entrance fee to all national parks will be waived this weekend.
 - BloodSource will have a South Lake Tahoe Community blood drive at the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Center, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd. on May 1 from noon-5pm. Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, be 17 (16 year olds need a signed BloodSource Parental consent form) and be generally healthy. There is no upper age limit for blood donations. Bring a photo ID and drink plenty of fluids before donating.
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Tourism expert: People have the money to travel

By Kathryn Reed

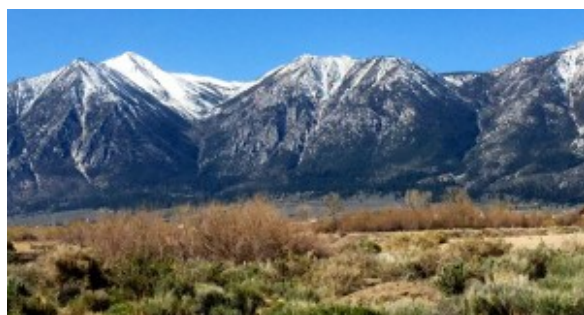
MINDEN – People are employed, they are willing to spend and they are saving. Saving for a vacation is what travel industry officials are hoping.

These economic trends are good for tourism, according to Brian London.

London was the keynote speaker April 16 at the Nevada Commission on Tourism's Rural Roundup at the Carson Valley Inn.

"What is something they are saving for? Vacation. That means there is no wrong time to start promoting your destination. Start now to inspire them," London told the crowd of a couple hundred tourism officials.

London is a travel industry analyst who used to work for the agency responsible for marketing Florida.



Tourism reps from rural Nevada – which includes the Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe – are participating in the annual multi-day travel conference. Photo/LTN

Tourism is Nevada's No. 1 industry. The state agency is focusing its pitch on Millennials, the 79 million people between the ages of 20 and 34.

London spoke to the need for destinations to know their demographic and what those people want. It doesn't mean neglecting one segment over another, but it does require knowing not all sectors have the same wants and needs.

"You have to change or you won't be speaking the language of your customer," London said.

He believes Boomers will be the driving force in the travel

industry for the next two decades. They have the time and money for travel, and control more than half of the discretionary spending by people in the United States.

They are mostly interested in touring, resorts, casinos and golf – all things Nevada can offer in abundance. They are also less into active sports and recreation, and more into sightseeing and fine dining.

Millennials are attracted to locations with events and to cities. They want to be part of something and then to share it with others.

“Photos are their favorite information currency,” London said. “They grew up with technology. They want instant access. They don’t ask if there is WiFi, they assume you have Internet available.”

If lodging properties, restaurants and the destination itself is not using photos and video as teasers, Millennials are likely to look elsewhere.

Gen X’ers, the group in between, are into the outdoors and theme parks. They want bonding and a connection with family.

Millennials represent 28 percent of the travel market, Boomers 26 percent, Gen X 20 percent, Gen Z and Older 13 percent each, according to London.

London is a strong proponent of businesses paying attention to online reviews. He said average daily rates increase at hotels that respond to complaints. It shows the property cares. It’s called reputation management.

Keeping track of trends is critical, too. London suggested businesses – even the larger destinations – look at reports publicly traded companies file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This is because they have to tell investors how they are going to spend their money. A tidbit –

Hilton is building 245,000 new rooms this year. This is a clear indication they are bullish on the lodging sector – aka travel market.

Tahoe woman jailed on embezzlement charges

A Carnelian Bay woman was arrested April 16 on charges related to the embezzlement of a business in Incline Village.

Pamela Jean Kircher, 61, is suspected of embezzling more than \$850,000 from an undisclosed business over a seven-year period. Victims became suspicious of Kircher late last year and contacted the Washoe County Sheriff's Office to investigate.

Following the investigation, Kircher was arrested on charges of embezzlement, theft and falsifying accounts.

Kircher most recently worked as a housekeeper at various locations throughout Incline Village and detectives are concerned that there may be additional victims.

Anyone who believes they may have been a victim of Kircher, or who may have information useful to this investigation, is asked to contact Washoe County Sheriff's Office Detective Division at 775.328.3320 or Secret Witness at 775.322.4900.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Calif. drought-stricken cities push back

By Sharon Bernstein, Reuters

Cities set to feel the brunt of California's mandated cutbacks in water use pushed back on Wednesday, calling a plan by regulators to demand reductions of as much as 35 percent in some communities unfair.

Water utilities in the areas surrounding the state capital of Sacramento, in line to face steep rationing despite years of conservation said factors such as leaks in the delivery system from streams and reservoirs, and the needs of big local water consumers like prisons and hospitals should be considered before a region was penalized.

"I am not against severe conservation," said Rob Roscoe, General Manager of the Sacramento Suburban Water District, which serves about 173,000 people in Sacramento's northeastern suburbs. "But I want everybody playing from the same rulebook."

[Read the whole story](#)

Bill to regulate Uber fails

in Nevada Senate

By Associated Press

CARSON CITY — A bill that would regulate ride-hailing companies such as Uber in Nevada failed in the state Senate on Wednesday after Democrats opposed the measure. But there are still ways the concept could re-emerge later in the legislative session.

Ten Democrats voted against SB439, which would create regulations for companies that allow people to hail a ride using a smartphone and often involve part-time drivers using their personal vehicles. Republican proponents needed more votes from the Democratic faction to pass the measure because it would raise a fee and therefore needed a two-thirds majority.

The vote came after bickering between senators and several speeches.

“No one, in my opinion, should have the authority to preserve the status quo and stifle technology,” said Republican Sen. James Settelmeyer, who held up a candle and then a light bulb to illustrate his points about progress.

Democrats said they opposed the bill because they wanted amendments to improve consumer protections, including one requiring FBI background checks on drivers and another that would have the state Public Utilities Commission regulate so-called surge pricing, when fares rise because of heavy demand.

“Our biggest industry is tourism,” said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Aaron Ford. “Allow one bad headline to come out about the way the background checks were done in this instance, and we’ll have repercussions that will reverberate throughout the state.”

Uber briefly operated in Nevada this fall before a state judge issued a restraining order, saying the company refused to follow regulations governing taxicab companies.

The bill sets requirements unique to companies like Uber, and it adds a 25-cent-per-trip surcharge to each ride. The funds would benefit road construction projects.

Cab companies have strongly opposed the bill, hiring two former Nevada governors to lobby on their behalf and arguing that Uber is wrongly seeking special treatment instead of conforming to the heavy regulation of the taxi industry.

Republican Sen. Mark Lipparelli said he doesn't think the bill is dead, and he said the evolution of technology is inevitable.

"We don't have Blockbuster anymore," he said, "but we do have HBO Go."

The rejection of the bill came hours after senators approved SB440, a companion bill that set insurance requirements for companies like Uber.

Judge: Pot stays on most-dangerous drug list

By Maura Dolan, Los Angeles Times

Efforts to legalize marijuana suffered a defeat in court Wednesday when a judge upheld the constitutionality of a 1970 federal law that classifies cannabis as a dangerous drug akin to LSD and heroin.

U.S. District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller, announcing her decision at a hearing in Sacramento, said she could not lightly overturn a law passed by Congress.

Mueller agreed last year to hold an extensive fact-finding hearing on the issue, raising the hopes of activists seeking to legalize marijuana and worrying opponents who consider the drug a threat to health and public safety. The hearing marked the first time in decades that a judge was willing to examine the classification of marijuana under the 1970 Controlled Substances Act.

Read the whole story