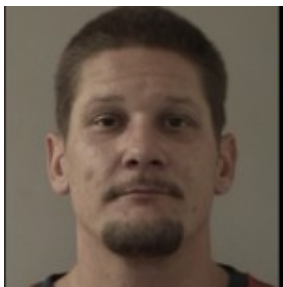


Court grants arson suspect's attorney more time

The attorney for suspected arsonist Wayne Allen Huntsman continues to ask the court for more time.

Huntsman, who is accused of starting last fall's devastating King Fire near Pollock Pines, was in court Monday. The readiness and settlement hearing March 16 in El Dorado County Superior Court in Placerville has been continued to April 17. It's possible a trial date could be set then.



Wayne Allen
Huntsman

The defense on Monday told the court more time was needed to investigate matters pertaining to the case. The District Attorney's Office is ready to proceed.

A grand jury handed down an indictment Dec. 3, accusing Huntsman of arson of forestland with five special allegations of arson with aggravating factors. This includes causing great bodily injury because a firefighter was hurt, and an enhancement because of the 12 houses and 68 outbuildings that were destroyed at a loss of \$6.5 million.

Huntsman's bail remains set at \$10 million.

The fire took nearly one month to contain. It burned 97,717 acres northeast of Pollock Pines, mostly in the Eldorado

National Forest.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

March Madness sports betting cheat sheet

By Case Keefer, Las Vegas Sun

Sports books don't want to make it easy on gamblers during the biggest betting event of the year – the NCAA Tournament, which begins March 17 with four games.

Bookmakers have plugged in and diligently reviewed the college basketball season to prepare the toughest final exam of point spreads and future odds.

"We've been looking at all the teams, getting our thoughts together," Sunset Station sports book director Chuck Esposito said. "We're getting everything ready to roll."

[Read the whole story](#)

Efforts to save Lahontan cutthroat trout recognized

A team working to bring back the Lahontan cutthroat trout to the area has been honored.

The Rachel Carson Group Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was presented to the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Broodstock and Lake Reintroduction Team. The team is comprised of the Lahontan National Fish Hatchery in Gardnerville, UNR and the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe.

2012 was the first time the Lahontan cutthroat reproduced naturally in the Lake Tahoe Basin in more than 70 years. This is the largest species of trout in the world.

Now the trout are being reintroduced to water bodies in the Sierra.

Seasons dramatically changing at Tahoe

By Julia Prodis Sulek, San Jose Mercury News

TAHOE CITY – There's something disconcerting about life at Lake Tahoe these days.

It's still winter, but visitors are renting bikes instead of snowshoes and kayaks instead of skis. Come summer – without last-ditch torrential rains – the lake level is expected to be at such a historic low that some marinas will have to dredge for boats to launch. Jumping off the end of a pier could result in a rock-hard landing.

California's epic drought, entering its perilous fourth year, has combined with a pattern of warming temperatures to cast a "Twilight Zone" quality on one of the state's most popular winter destinations and iconic landmarks.

"It's bizarre what people are doing now. It's so out of

season,” said Geoffrey Schladow, director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center and a UC Davis professor. “Years like this are going to become more common.”

In many ways, Lake Tahoe is California’s canary in the coal mine – at 6,200 feet. While our weather can quickly swing from one extreme to the other, the twin realities of the current relentless drought and steady warming over the past century are converging to create a remarkably different experience at the venerable – and vulnerable – lake. Everyone, from environmental agencies to businesses to tourists, is scrambling to adapt.

Long-term predictions by Lake Tahoe scientists warn that by the end of the century, summers could be two months longer and temperatures 8 degrees hotter than when Squaw Valley hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics. The dire effects of climate change present daunting challenges to local government officials, who have been patting themselves on the back for their efforts to Keep Tahoe Blue and reverse some of the damage caused by rampant lakeside development in the 1960s and ’70s.

But there’s nothing they can do to guarantee winter.

Read the whole story

Nature Conservancy helps restore Truckee River

By Ryan Canaday, KTVN-TV

The Nature Conservancy in Nevada has partnered with the Nevada Museum of Art to help restore damaged floodplains along the

Truckee River.

The project is called the nature of art. Watershed artists, the Nature Conservancy and volunteers are working to create large, living sculptures as a part of the efforts to restore the lower Truckee River.

Daniel McCormick and Mary O'Brien are the artists who help bring the nature of art sculptures to life.

Read the whole story

South Tahoe man killed in suspected DUI crash

Updated: March 16, 1:40pm

A 28-year-old South Lake Tahoe man died Friday in a two-vehicle accident in Meyers.

David Earl Baker was riding in a vehicle that was struck by a man who was arrested on driving under the influence charges. Jonathan Hooker, 35, of El Dorado Hills was driving west on Highway 50 near Chiapa Drive in Meyers on March 13 at 10: 28pm when he swerved into oncoming traffic, according to a California Highway Patrol report.

Hooker's vehicle struck a vehicle driven by Ginger Baker, 43, of South Lake Tahoe, sister of the deceased..

"The passenger of Baker's vehicle was transported to Renown Hospital in Reno, via air ambulance, where he succumbed to his injuries, having taken the impact of the collision on the right front end and passenger side compartment," the report

says.

Hooker sustained major injuries and Baker had moderate injuries. Both were taken to Barton Memorial Hospital.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

A simple flashcard test to detect concussions

By Gretchen Reynolds, New York Times

An easy, two-minute vision test administered on the sidelines after a young athlete has hit his or her head can help to reliably determine whether the athlete has sustained a concussion, according to a new study of student athletes, some as young as 5.

The test is so simple and inexpensive that any coach or parent potentially could administer it, the study's authors believe, and any league afford to provide it as a way to help evaluate and safeguard players.

Those of us who coach or care for young athletes know by now that an athlete who falls or collides with something during play or seems dazed, dizzy, loses consciousness or complains of head pain should be tested for a concussion, which occurs when the brain is physically jostled within the skull.

But most of us are clueless about how to test young athletes. The most commonly recommended sideline test is the Standardized Assessment of Concussion, a multipart examination

during which athletes are asked to name the date, describe how they feel, memorize and recall lists of words, and do jumping jacks and other tests of coordination. Ideally, this assessment should be administered and evaluated by a medical professional.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Kix

Kix is a friendly, happy mystery mix, maybe rat terrier, maybe Jack Russell, maybe Whippet. In any case, he's a handsome boy who is playful, energetic, and full of personality.

Kix is tall and slender, weighs 22 pounds, and is a good size and temperament for just about any household where he'll get plenty of exercise and play time. He likes children and other dogs, but will chase cats.

Kix is neutered, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are

waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz

S. Tahoe identifies 12 acres for concert venue



The clearing in the distance could be an area for a stage. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

An outdoor concert venue that isn't a parking lot. A setting that embraces the natural environment. A site that could be used year-round. A place that would have limited impact to residents.

It does exist in South Lake Tahoe.

City officials are looking at the possibility of turning 12 acres at Lake Tahoe Airport into an event center.

The Federal Aviation Administration has already given the OK to have special events there on a case-by-case basis. Through the airport master plan process the city is seeking to designate this area non-aviation. If that goes through, then the city can do what it wants with the land without permission from the FAA.

"It's common sense this is non-aviation," City Manager Nancy Kerry said while walking the property with Councilwoman Wendy David.

The City Council has approved a cost benefit study to be done. Engineers will be brought out to assess the site.

Much of the property sits a few hundred feet below Highway 50, paralleling Kyburz Avenue. This means little road noise for attendees and less chance of concert sounds drifting to residences.

Plus, the density of trees will help absorb the sound.



South Lake Tahoe City

Manager Nancy Kerry, right,
gives Councilwoman Wendy
David a tour March 14 of the
proposed event center site.

Walking farther into the space the quieter it gets. It's like being in the wilderness even though civilization is so close.

Kerry said people are looking for an experience beyond listening to music. This setting would be designed to provide just that.

"They don't want to bother your environment, they want to be in your environment," she said.

South Lake Tahoe has been looking for a site to stage music festivals ever since SnowGlobe came to town in 2011. It brings more than 10,000 people each night to what is a three-day music festival at the ball field at Lake Tahoe Community College, and millions of dollars to the local economy. But it also brings wear-and-tear to the synthetic field, and noise complaints from neighbors.

The airport parcel is larger than the area used at the college for SnowGlobe.

The idea is not to build large structures or lots of permanent seating. Limited terraced seating would be created. At most multi-day outdoor festivals everyone is standing – often dancing.

Some infrastructure is in place – like a concrete slab from when this site was a summer boys and girls camp, and sewer capacity. A segment of a paved road from the corner of Kyburz Avenue and Melba Road remains and could be the route where vendors would access the facility.

Electricity would need to be brought to the area, fencing installed, some trees removed and one storm drain would need

to be put underground.



Part of the existing trail is wide enough for vehicles.

A future bike trail through this area is already on the books. That is the route that would likely be developed for attendees to use. It's already a distinct path that is well used by cyclists. Interpretive signs could be erected to educate the public about the forest, what being a steward of the land is about and other Tahoe-centric things.

Kerry said she envisions the entrance being at the defunct airport control tower. Parking would be at the airport, along with shuttles from other parts of town to the venue. People would then walk into the forest, a bridge going over the creek would be built and then multiple tents might be erected – like SnowGlobe – so various acts could be playing at the same time.

It's also possible this site would be used for more than music events.

Originally, this parcel was slated to be commercial development to complement airport needs. With the city deciding to forgo trying to establish this as a commercial

airport again, the need for ancillary businesses is a moot point.

Letter: Tribe should rethink gun range

To the community,

A 29-lane outdoor commercial gun range and tactical live-fire shoot house is being built by the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians on recently-acquired off-reservation trust land located at the southeast corner of Highway 50 and Shingle Springs Drive. The proposed range will be within 1,000 yards of two public elementary schools and a church, and within 100 yards of thousands of drivers on Highway 50, and backing directly to dozens of private residences. This is the wrong location for an outdoor commercial gun range. Neighbors directly downrange from the site have said that they will need to leave their homes once the range is operational due to safety and sound impact concerns.

The issue is not one of gun rights, but one of safety and choice of location.

If allowed to proceed as proposed, this project sets a dangerous precedent for the use of off-reservation trust land in California.

If anyone other than the tribe were to propose this project at this location, it would not be approved according to El Dorado County's zoning laws and noise and safety ordinances. However, due to its sovereign nation status, the tribe does not need to receive review, approval, or permitting as required of all

other commercial projects proposed in the county.

This is not your standard gun range. The tribe is accountable to no one other than the Tribal Council for the planning, building, or operation of the range. The gun range is a part of the overall marketing plan to bring business to the Red Hawk Casino. A casino-fed gun range business run by the tribe with zero county oversight is not a recipe for a safe gun range.

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors has essentially stated that they don't believe they have jurisdiction to stop the project from proceeding. The tribe is moving forward with construction, with a proposed completion date of summer 2015.

We fully acknowledge and recognize the sovereignty of the tribe, but are asking them to be good neighbors and consider building an indoor range, choose a more appropriate location, or consider an alternate proposal that would preserve the quality of life and safety for all concerned. The surrounding community has voiced its concerns, but has been met with little cooperation, and to date has received no modifications to the proposal from the tribe.

Go online for more detail on the issue.

Damon Tribble, El Dorado Hills