

Guide to Nevada's primary election

By James DeHaven, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevadans who haven't kept up with the state's upcoming elections, take heart – the rest of the country is paying plenty of attention for you.

Three months before party primary voters decide which candidates will appear on November's general election ballot, money and media attention has poured into races for the Silver State's top political spots, among them an open governor's seat and one of the nation's most closely watched U.S. Senate contests.

Washoe County – narrowly won by Hillary Clinton in 2016 – figures to play a decisive role in both of those races, as Democrats seek to close a slim 6,000-person countywide voter registration edge held by Republicans armed with a pricey new data-driven voter turnout initiative.

Read the whole story

Tahoe neighborhoods under avalanche warning

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Emergency management officials are warning Lake Tahoe residents to avoid activity in some neighborhoods because of the potential for an avalanche.

On Friday Washoe County issued a Stage 1 Avalanche Warning for the Crystal Bay and Third Creek subdivisions.

“Storm and wind slab avalanches are likely, especially human triggered, however due to the relatively new nature of the underlying snow cover they are not predicted to be large enough to directly affect houses or roads,” the warning stated.

About 160 homes are in the affected areas.

Read the whole story

Five people caught in avalanche at Squaw

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

An avalanche swept up five people, including one who was seriously injured, at a Lake Tahoe-area ski resort on Friday.

The avalanche happened at 1:40 p.m. at Squaw Valley Resort, less than five hours after searchers recovered the body of a snowboarder who had gone missing late Thursday during a blizzard.

According to the resort five guests, two female and three male, were caught in the inbounds slide near the Olympic Lady chairlift.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The League to Save Lake Tahoe is having a volunteer training and appreciation on April 4 from 5:30-8:30pm at its South Lake Tahoe office.

- The Meeks Bay bike trail construction contract was awarded to Minden-based Herback General Engineering in the amount of \$3,663,312.68. The project is scheduled to be completed this fall. It's an extension of the West Shore bike trail system south of Sugar Pine Point along Highway 89 to Meeks Bay, heading toward Emerald Bay.

- Tom Stuart has been hired as South Lake Tahoe's principal human resources analyst.

- Barton Health is introducing two support groups. The Parkinson's Disease Support Group offers support for those diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, as well as family members, and caretakers of those effected. For questions, location and registration, contact Emily Barkley at 530.543.5712 or ebarkley@bartonhealth.org. The group meets the second Wednesday of each month from 3-4pm. The Women's Cancer Support Group meets the last Tuesday of each month, 5:30-6:30pm at the Barton Hospital Mountain. For questions or more information, call 530.600.1950.

- The Humane Society of Truckee Tahoe's 10th annual Black Tie & Tails event included 350 guests and more than 100 dogs attending the sold-out event. The Humane Society raised over \$200,000.

Little fanfare with TRPA approval of Meyers plan

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – One more vote and the Meyers Area Plan will be the law of the land, replacing the planning document from 1993.

The process to develop this plan started in February 2012. In these six years there have been a multitude of meetings, angry words levied between residents, at El Dorado County staff and electeds, misunderstandings, and finally compromise and resolution.

The fact that only one member of the public spoke at the Feb. 28 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board meeting speaks volumes for how far things have come. It used to be the topic of this area plan would bring out the masses, with opinions all over the board.

It took four drafts to come to the plan that the bi-state regulatory agency approved unanimously. (Sue Novasel, who represents El Dorado County on the Governing Board had to recuse herself because she owns property in the plan area. CAO Don Ashton filled in for her.) Later this month the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors will review it one last time.

This most southwestern entrance to the Lake Tahoe Basin has more traffic and visitors than any other gateway. This is why transportation and traffic were critical elements of the plan.

“One key challenge to Meyers is that it has to operate as a ‘Main Street’ and as a highway,” Brendan Ferry, planner with the county, told the Governing Board. Highway 50 is 280 feet

wide at most places, making it a challenge to cross.

The county has been working with Caltrans to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The intersection at Apache Avenue is one of the most critical points, especially for people trying to reach the elementary school and park on the north side of the highway. It's possible a yellow light to slow traffic could be installed there.

The lack of transit is another issue for Meyers. There was some discussion about this at the board level. Funding is the problem. Still, the county is pursuing state and federal grants to improve the physical corridor, and is working with the Tahoe Transportation District for bus service.

One item in the plan is to work to move the agricultural inspection station to Highway 89 or find a way to deem its existence irrelevant. This will not be an easy endeavor, as the state has the final say. The reason to get rid of it is that it's an eyesore and with it only being staffed at random times its viability is questioned.

Austin Sass, who represents South Lake Tahoe on the TRPA board, asked if there would be anyplace for workforce housing in Meyers based on this plan.

Ferry spoke more in general development parameters instead of specific uses when he said there is vacant land available. Some of it is owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy and would be available through the state agency's asset lands program.

During the last six years of public meetings, the residents of Meyers were more interested in development that would generate tax dollars and add to the local flair, such as a boutique lodging establishment, an outdoor oriented commercial entity and the like.

Editorial: Prescription to heal national parks is a poison pill

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the Feb. 26, 2018, Las Vegas Sun.*

Looking at one part of President Trump's budget, you might think his administration is riding to the rescue of the National Park Service.

But a broader view of the overall budget reveals something very different. The administration's plans for our national parks threaten to tear them to pieces.

While Trump recommends spending \$18.7 billion to fix a massive maintenance backlog, which would seem like a good idea, the problem is that all but \$257 million of that funding would come from private industries that would be given access to the parks to use for commercial purposes – mainly oil and gas companies. More specifically, the funding would be derived from the government collecting a percentage of energy leasing receipts.

Read the whole story

Multi-generational households becoming the norm

By Paula Span, New York Times

On a Sunday evening a few weeks back, Shobana Ram was loading the dishwasher in her kitchen in Queens when her 85-year-old father-in-law rose from the dinner table, carrying his cane in one hand and an empty plate in the other.

“From the corner of my eye, I saw him stumble and lose his balance,” recalled Ms. Ram. “I saw the cane fly out of his hand. His head hit the corner of our granite countertop.”

She dialed 911 and thought, not for the first time, how fortunate it was that in 2016 she and her husband sold their house and bought one big enough to accommodate six people: themselves, their two teenagers and his ailing parents, plus the family dog.

Her mother-in-law, who has dementia, would not have been able to phone for help. In this case, after emergency room scans, her father-in-law was “miraculously OK,” said Ram, 48.

Her family’s decision also reflects a growing change in the way Americans, including older people, are choosing to live.

Read the whole story

Apple watch apps now track

ski performance

By Katie Roof, Tech Crunch

Skiers, rejoice!

It just got a lot easier to track your mountain treks.

Due to an Apple watch update that combines GPS and altimeter (altitude) measuring, ski apps are now able to quantify performance. If you're wondering how many calories you've burned or how fast you were going, all that data is available and more.

Read the whole story

Weekend of events for Olympian Engel

Tahoe Donner and the North Lake Tahoe community on March 10 will celebrate the return of local Alpine Ski Team member Mark Engel from the 2018 Winter Games.

Engel, 26, grew up in Truckee and made his Olympic debut competing in men's slalom in PyeongChang.

The party begins at 3p, on the Sun Deck at the Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Resort. Festivities include an Olympic Q&A by Daron Rahlves, a meet-and-greet autograph session with Engel, barbecue and beer, and live music by Matt Reardon and the Red River Revival. The event is free and open to the public.

In addition to the party, a limited number of tickets are on

sale now for the following events taking place March 9-10:

- VIP Farm-to-Table Olympian Dinner on March 9 at Alder Creek Adventure Center. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 5; 530.587.9400.
- First Tracks with Mark on March 10 from 8-9am at Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Resort. Sign-up for early mountain access, fresh tracks and chairlift conversations with Mark before the ski resort opens to the public. Buy tickets in advance. Space is limited.
- Ski Clinic with Mark on March 10 at Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Resort.

More info about the weekend's activities is available **online**.

Forecasting tool may be able to predict mountain snowpack

By Matt Weiser, Water Deeply

A skier threads his way through patches of dry ground at California's Squaw Valley Ski Resort on March 21, 2015, when the state experienced one of its driest winters ever. A new forecasting tool could one day be able to predict such poor mountain snowpack conditions as much as eight months in advance. Max Whittaker/Getty Images

If we had known a year ago that this winter would be so dry, would we have conserved water more aggressively last summer? Would ski resorts have installed more snowmaking equipment? Would farmers buy different seeds to plant this spring?

These are among the tantalizing questions raised by a team of government and university scientists, who believe they have developed a tool to predict mountain snowpack in the West up to eight months in advance – long before the first winter snowflake has fallen.

The tool, a powerful computer model, is described in a new study recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. It is still experimental, but it seems capable at this stage of giving a thumbs-up or -down signal about whether March 1 snowpack will be heavy. And it can do so at the scale of a particular mountain range, offering some indication about potential spring runoff for individual watersheds.

Read the whole story