

Increased DUI patrols to continue in EDC

The winter holiday anti-DUI crackdown and special Avoid the 6 DUI deployments have been out the past several days in El Dorado County.

From 12:01am Dec. 12 through midnight Dec. 20, officers representing six county law enforcement agencies arrested one person on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. (These numbers are preliminary.)

Last year there were no DUI deaths or major injury collisions reported during this same time period.

For the second weekend of the campaign extra local DUI saturation patrols will be deployed in the cities of South Lake Tahoe, Placerville, and the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County.

All regularly scheduled traffic and patrol officers will focus efforts at stopping and arresting DUI drivers during their normal shifts. Multiple DUI/driver's license checkpoints, multi-agency DUI task force operations and local roving DUI patrols are all part of this regionwide crackdown during the 21-day winter holiday campaign.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Olympic gold medalist Jonny Moseley will be on hand to ski with the public Dec. 26-31. Meet him at Squaw Valley's Gold Coast Demo Center at 2pm.

- Zephyr Cove attorney Carolyn Wright is featured in this article about copyrights and photographs.

- Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for the week.

- Subscriptions of all kinds are usually tax deductible for businesses and sometimes for individuals. Are you a *Lake Tahoe News* subscriber? Here is a paid subscriber form.

- SnowGlobe, the three-day music festival in South Lake Tahoe, will be giving \$10,000 to area nonprofits.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Arco

Arco is one of just two dogs at the shelter right now. It would be great to send both of them to new homes for the holidays.

Arco is a nice 4-year-old beagle-Chihuahua mix, maybe 20 pounds, who is one of the many dogs who have come to us from the Central Valley. He is house trained. Though he does OK with other dogs, he would rather be an only pet.

Arco 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

**Artistic talent not a
criteria at Paint and Sip**



Theodore Scott and Morgan Garrity brought 10 friends together for a birthday celebration at Paint and Sip this month. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

Painting within the lines is not required. Colors – it's OK to be bold and original. Having fun – that's the ultimate goal.

"My favorite part is there is so much creativity," Shalynn Swails tells *Lake Tahoe News*.

She gives the same direction to everyone, but no two paintings are alike.

On this particular night a private party has taken over Lake Tahoe Paint and Sip Studio at the Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe.

These types of businesses have been around for several years, but are now becoming the rage. The South Shore entity opened in August.



Matt Kauffmann says drawing the straight line for the horizon on the Emerald Bay painting is the hardest part for people.

“We have visited here many times over the years. Every time we left we said ‘what can we do to live here?’,” Frank Slipper said. “We have a friend who opened a studio in a small town in New York about the size of South Lake Tahoe. We visited, got the fever and thought this is where we are going to try.”

He and his wife, Jill, are making it work. So far it’s a split between locals and tourists picking up a brush, but he foresees this being mostly a locals’ hangout. Slipper said people get addicted to it.

Walking in, blank 16-inch-by-20-inch canvases sit on easels. Multiple paintbrushes and a water glass are to the side. Aprons are on the stools.

With the first glass of beer or wine being included in the price, it helps ease tensions of budding artists.

“Usually after the second glass of wine folks don’t care and it becomes less intimidating,” Slipper said.



Shalynn Swails gets paint ready for people.

This isn't an art class. It's not a competition. No one is being graded. And even those who have problems drawing stick figures are encouraged to come paint.

"We say our business is about fun art, not fine art," Slipher told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The artists have a finished painting to show the rookies what the end product should look like. Then there is a blank canvas. Step-by-step the artist shows the clients what to do, how different size brushes are important, that if the brush is wet, the paint will run, and how sometimes it's OK to mix colors.

"We encourage people to come experiment with different colors and techniques – to not paint within the lines, so to speak," Matt Kauffmann told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Kauffmann is one of the three artists who works at Paint and Sip.

While scenes of Lake Tahoe are popular, Van Gogh's *Starry Night* is another favorite. Sip and Paint has a calendar on its website listing what the upcoming painting will be. For private parties, they may request something in particular or submit their own.

Theodore Scott Jr. wanted a Day of the Dead skull for his 34 birthday last week. He and 11 others from South Lake Tahoe sketched out what they were going to draw and then Swails, one of the artists, led them through ways to paint their creations.

Ashley Ratoni had done some research before arriving Dec. 17. She wanted a rose on top of her skull, so she copied a rendering on her phone to the canvas.

For Lizzy Kirkpatrick she started off by creating a multicolored background before outlining the skull.



Individuality is encouraged.

Scott's girlfriend, Morgan Garrity, was introduced to Paint and Sip at a fundraiser this fall at Hard Rock Café. Then she and two friends did a session at the studio. She said Scott was a bit jealous of all the fun she was having, so that's how the birthday bash came about.

"I like getting together with friends and doing something different," Garrity told *Lake Tahoe News* of why she is a repeat Paint and Sipper.

Emerald Bay was the subject her first time, an owl the second.

Garrity isn't sure what she is going to do with her artwork, but they may turn into gifts.

A quiet fills the room as the painters work on their creations. Swails gives advice. Some ask for individual help. Others order another round.

It's an interactive party. Each session lasts between 2 and 2½ hours. It depends on the speed of the participants and difficulty of the painting.

Sip and Paint last month took over an adjoining suite in the center.

"The main reason we expanded to the second studio is we wanted to have the capability to accommodate children," Slipher said. "We couldn't do it with the liquor license so we are in the process of building a secluded area just for kids."

Sessions are at 7pm Tuesday-Saturday, and at 2pm Saturday-Sunday, or by appointment. Drop-ins are OK if space allows. One Monday a month Sip and Paint opens the doors to nonprofits as a fundraiser. The nonprofit sells the tickets and Sip and Paint donates half back to the group.

More info is online.

Opinion: EDSO ready to keep leading

By John D'Agostoni

Another year has passed and another holiday season is upon us. This is a time of year to reflect on the year that was and the

year that soon will be. From a personal standpoint, it's a time to reflect on the priorities in life; faith, family, friendship, health and happiness. From a professional standpoint, it's a time to take a few steps back and assess our progress, re-evaluate our priorities and prepare ourselves for the year to come.



John
D'Agostini

This season is a time for family gatherings and celebrations. Whether it is families traveling to a relative's home to celebrate or friends venturing out for their holiday shopping, these trips typically require driving. All of our area law enforcement agencies will be working around the clock to ensure the safety of our community out enjoying Christmas and New Year parties and celebrations, but we also look to each and every person to take responsibility for their actions, drink sensibly, and not drive after drinking.

At all levels of government and private industry we are still facing an uncertain fiscal future. As you know our sheriff's office and employees have made significant budget reductions doing their part to assist the county attain a balanced budget without reducing the level of service to our community.

I want you to know that providing public safety services will continue to be my highest priority and I will ensure that when you need our assistance, we will be there.

My vision is to maintain one of the best law enforcement agencies in California, building on the hard work and service

provided by the dedicated employees at the sheriff's office. Your sheriff's office consists of highly professional, well trained staff, with access to some of the most reliable equipment and technology available to law enforcement. With these tools and a commitment to public service, our level of interaction with the community will increase and I will work hard to protect your rights and our foothill lifestyle.

Please know that we work for you and accept my wishes for a happy and safe holiday season for you and those you hold dear.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and all you cherish.

John D'Agostoni is sheriff of El Dorado County.

Chard is the new glamour crop

By Barbara Damrosch, Washington Post

Kale might be called the new spinach, but behind the current crispy-kale-chip fetish I can see a competitor sneaking up. I'll bet chard will be the new kale.

You might know it as Swiss chard, but the Swiss have little to do with this ancient Mediterranean plant. Botanically, it's a beet, but one bred for lush leaves and stems instead of big, sweet, bulbous roots. Sometimes, the leafy type is called silverbeet, on account of its broad, silvery-white stem and ribs.

Barbara Damrosch is a freelance writer and the author of "The Garden Primer." [View Archive](#)

Chard became a glamorous crop when varieties with brightly colored stems began turning up in gardens, not just bright red

ones such as Ruby or Rhubarb but also the multicolored mixes such as Bright Lights, Rainbow and Five Color Silverbeet. But gardeners soon discovered how easy chard is to grow. Even in cool climates it can survive the winter with no protection. Leaf production might slow down or stop, but the roots are often still there in spring, only to sprout again for a quick flush of greenery before going to seed. If protected by a cold frame or unheated greenhouse, its tasty greens are even more abundant in wintertime. In our garden trials, we've found the variety Argentata to be the most cold-hardy.

Read the whole story

Pets seldom forgotten at the holidays

By Ellen Byron, Wall Street Journal

Since Neil, a 5½-inch-long tortoise, already donned a Santa hat and an elf cap for past holiday celebrations, this year Cindy Breninger, a legal secretary who lives in West Sacramento, made a 4½-inch-tall Christmas tree for him to wear over his shell on Christmas morning.

Neil – wearing his new tree – is featured in the family Christmas card. His Christmas stocking, stuffed with a new bag of lettuce, will be placed next to stockings for Breninger's two children and their parakeet.

"Having our pets included at Christmas rounds out our little family," she says.

During the holidays plenty of people shower their dogs and

cats with treats, toys, costumes and even visits with Santa. Now, more families are trying to include other types of pets in their Christmas festivities, including guinea pigs, ferrets, hamsters and rabbits.

About 28 percent of owners of these “small animals” are expected to buy their pet a Christmas present this year, spending an average of \$16 per gift, according to the trade group American Pet Products Association. An estimated 50 percent of dog owners will buy their dog a gift, spending an average of \$10, and 36 percent of cat owners, spending \$7.80 per gift, the group says.

Read the whole story

Pot to be focal point of Nev. Legislature

By Ray Hagar, Reno Gazette-Journal

Even though the growing and selling of medical marijuana was approved by the 2013 Legislature, the cannabis plant will remain a point of contention and debate at the 2015 Nevada Legislature, lawmakers said.

“I personally think it will (be a big issue),” said state Sen Richard “Tick” Segerblom, D-Las Vegas. “The press will cover it because it is a sexy issue. But the fact is, there are a lot of things we need to do about it.”

Lawmakers are expected to debate legalizing recreational use of marijuana and propose a study on the issues surrounding DUIs, employment drug testing and how it relates to Nevada’s

medical marijuana law.

Another bill will seek the legalization of hemp, a cannabis plant that only has traces of the ingredient that gets you high. But hemp takes about half the water needed to grow a rural Nevada favorite – alfalfa – and can be used in various ways such as clothing, oils, carpeting, auto parts, ropes and biofuels.

Another bill would allow the transfer of medical marijuana licenses to be transferred between people. Now, if the licensee dies or the license is revoked, the license goes back to the state.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



Hard Rock Lake Tahoe
signs are up in
Stateline.

Photos/Bill Kingman



Hard Rock's sign is eye-catching.

- Hard Rock Lake Tahoe is making Stateline look a bit more contemporary – the signs are one step forward. The hotel-casino-music venue will open at the end of January.
 - The Nativity story and Christmas carols will be presented by St. Theresa Church and Saint Theresa School Alumni on Dec. 23 at 6pm at Grace Hall in South Lake Tahoe for free. All faiths and families welcome.
 - The Rubicon Trail is open.
 - Michael Gibbons, who was just re-elected to the Ninth Judicial District representing Douglas County, has been appointed by Gov. Brian Sandoval to be on the newly created Nevada Court of Appeals.
 - On Dec. 23, ski or ride with big mountain snowboarding legend Jeremy Jones for two hours at Squaw Valley before heading down to win his gear at the Ledge Boardshop in the village. Meet at the Gold Coast Demo Center at 2pm.
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10 tips to safeguard your information

By Gary S. Miliefsky

We've all lost our identity at least three times, with more than 930 million records breached, lost or stolen to hackers and cyber criminals, says consumer advocacy non-profit Privacy Rights Clearinghouse.

Why don't we do all we can to stay safer online?

According to StaySafeOnline.org, more than a quarter of Americans say they lack the information necessary.

So, here it is – everything you need to know to enjoy the shopping experience without losing your privacy and identity or putting your children's safety at risk:

- **Assume you've already been compromised.** Whether it's your baby monitor, your SmartTV, the Webcam on your laptop or apps you installed on your smartphone or tablet, your antivirus is not enough protection. It's time to take those devices' and apps' privacy policies, and the permissions you grant them, much more seriously.
- **Change your passwords – all of them.** Now. And do it as frequently as you can tolerate. Also, if you don't want to change it often, then use any unique characters you can think of, such as a dollar sign (\$) or exclamation mark (!), or replace an "oh" with a "zero" (0). This goes a long way in preventing attacks against your password.
- **Turn off wireless and geolocation services.** Protect your smartphones and tablets by turning off WiFi, Bluetooth, NFC and GPS, except when you need them. That way, if you are at a local coffee shop or in a shopping mall, no one can spy on you

using nearby (proximity) hacking attacks and they can't track where you were and where you are going on your GPS.

- **Assume most of your apps are creepware.** Do you really need them? Delete all of the apps you aren't using too often. Replace apps that ask for too many permissions and take advantage of too many of your privacy settings – like GPS, phone and sms logs, personal identity information – with similar apps that don't.

- **Opt out of sharing your information.** Opt out of every advertising network that you can. Visit the National Do Not Call Registry and register your smartphone and home phone numbers at www.donotcall.gov. If you use a Google email account and have an Android phone, even with your GPS off, it's tracking your every move. Go into your smartphone or tablet settings and turn this feature off. In your Android phone, go to Settings, then Location, select Google Location Reporting and set Location History to off. The same holds true for the Apple iPhone, iPad and iTunes. You need to find the location and privacy settings and turn off access under Settings, then Privacy then Location.

- **Your browser is a double agent – keep it clean.** It is spying on you for advertisers unless you block and remove cookies and delete the cache frequently. In your web browser settings, delete your history, all cookies and passwords and the cache. You should do this frequently so you don't leave personal information sitting around on your computer, smartphone or tablet.

- **Remove third-party Facebook plugins.** Third-party plugins are mini applications designed to eavesdrop on your behavior in Facebook and possibly grab information about your habits within that social network. Some websites you visit will require you to log in using Facebook, and then you have to trust them to connect to your Facebook account. This is very risky. Read their privacy policy and make sure they are a

legitimate business before you risk doing this.

- **Only shop on the websites of companies you already trust.** If you don't know where the merchant is located, don't shop online there. If they don't have a corporate address or are located in another country, it is risky for you and you may never see the goods you think you purchased. Also, if their shopping cart experience is not an HTTPS browser session, then everything you type in, your name, address and credit card information, is going over the internet unencrypted – in plain view.

- **Turn off geotagging – your photos are full of information.** Twitter and Instagram as well as your iPhone will give away your location. Most people don't realize Twitter and Instagram both use geotagging for everything you send out. Geotagging stores the latitude and longitude of your tweet or image. Pictures you take on an iPhone usually store geotagging information, as well. The less information you give out about where you are located, the safer you are.

- **Don't use cash or debit cards – use credit cards, wisely.** Credit cards allow you to travel with less cash, and if you're purchasing online, it's safer to give your credit card than your debit card information. The same holds true when you visit your local retail outlet. The reason? If you experience identity theft, credit card laws allow you to keep all of your credit, with no responsibility during an investigation. With a debit card, your bank can tie up your money in the amount equivalent to the fraudulent transactions for up to 30 days.

Gary S. Miliefsky is CEO of SnoopWall and the inventor of SnoopWall spyware-blocking technology.