

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- For 25 years the Bread & Broth program has served more than 125,000 hot, nutritious meals to those in need. There will be a community celebration Oct. 5 from noon-4pm at the Celio Ranch in Meyers. Cost is \$10 adults, \$5 children.
 - The second annual Halloween Freq Fest Costume Party featuring Freq Nasty is Oct. 30 at Whiskey Dicks Saloon in South Lake Tahoe. Tickets are \$18 in advance at Whiskey Dicks, The Spot (South Lake Tahoe) or Recycled Records (Reno). Tickets are \$20 at the door. Doors open at 8pm.
 - Squaw Valley is launching the ski industry's first app for Google Glass.
 - Mammovan is coming to Harrah's Lake Tahoe on Oct. 8 from 7:45am-3:15pm. It will be in the upper parking lot behind tree line. To schedule a mammogram, call 877.581.6266.
 - Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules for the week from Caltrans.
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Celebrity chefs to take over Harrah's-Harveys

The fifth annual South Lake Tahoe Food and Wine Festival is at Harrah's and Harveys Lake Tahoe on Oct. 18-19.

Award-winning chef Rocco DiSpirito is the featured celebrity chef. He will be hosting several key events. He has starred in

shows such as “Restaurant Divided,” on the Food Network and “Now Eat This! with Rocco DiSpirito.” He also starred in his own reality TV series, “Rocco’s Dinner Party.”

Author of 10 cookbooks, DiSpirito’s best seller, “The Pound A Day Diet,” reached No. 1 on the *New York Times* best seller list.

This year marks the return of chef Mark Estee. Estee’s résumé runs deep with stages in some of the world’s best kitchens, including Gary Danko, Lespinasee and Chez Panisse. He currently owns several popular eateries in Nevada and California, including Campo Reno, Campo Mammoth and Chez Louie inside the Nevada Museum of Art.

The South Lake Tahoe Food and Wine Festival kicks into gear Oct. 18 with the Grand Market Expo at Harrah’s Special Events Center.

For more information, event prices and to purchase tickets, go online. Patrons must be at least 21 years of age to attend any of these events.

Adelson reiterates disdain for Internet gambling

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Sheldon Adelson continued his crusade against online gaming, passionately opposing its legalization during an appearance at a major gaming industry trade show.

Adelson, CEO of Las Vegas Sands, is arguably the loudest critical voice against legal gambling on the Internet. He made

his latest remarks during a keynote discussion on the second full day of the Global Gaming Expo, or G2E.

Saying that “when you’re on the Internet, you cannot know your customer,” Adelson suggested that it’s easy for underage players to gamble online.

He was responding to questions from Roger Gros, the publisher of Global Gaming Business, who pushed back on the casino magnate’s objections. Gros said, “You know your customer better on the Internet than you do in person” in defense of online gaming’s ability to authenticate players’ identities.

But Adelson would hear none of it, especially when it came to the idea that online gaming should be legalized because it already happens.

Read the whole story

Apps let neighbors report water wasters

By Javaier Panzar, Los Angeles Times

With Californians being urged to cut water use as the state’s historic drought drags on, a growing number of local water agencies are enlisting the public to play water cop with their smartphones.

From Long Beach to Placer County, officials are rolling out apps that allow users to snap and send photos of homes and businesses that are violating watering restrictions or operating broken and wasteful irrigation systems.

The apps put more boots on the ground to spot waste and leaks that might go unnoticed, officials say. They say the high-tech citizen reporting programs are intended to encourage water conservation, and not to be used as evidence to fine offenders.

In Placer County, the water agency released a multipurpose water-saving app in May. It lets users report water waste, but it also features a shower timer that estimates how many gallons a person uses. So far, the agency has received 30 complaints, mostly about water runoff, said Matt Young, the agency's director of customer services.

Read the whole story

Minden pilot earns world championship



Jim Payne after his 2,701 km flight. Photo/Provided

Jim Payne from Minden has won his third consecutive world championship in the Aerokurier Online Soaring Contest.

This yearlong contest has almost 15,000 competitors from around the world. To compete, glider pilots record their flights with a GPS logger and submit their flight logs to the contest website for scoring.

Payne's six best distance flights covered 12,616.16 kilometers (7,839.7 miles). It makes him world champion in the OLC Plus (distance) for the fourth time in the last seven years.

He also won the world championship in the OLC Speed category. His average speed for his six best flights was 223 km per hour (139 miles per hour). This is his seventh world championship in eight years in the speed category.

Payne's longest flight of 2,701 km (1,678 miles) was the world's longest of the year. His fastest flight of 241 kph (150 mph) was also the world's fastest in 2014.

Letter: Wyndham returns to Bread & Broth

To the community,

Sponsoring their second Adopt A Day of Nourishment this year, Wyndham Vacation Ownership hosted the Georgia Deb's Famous Lasagna dinner served at Bread & Broth's Sept. 15 evening's meal.

"Wyndham is really proud of their philanthropy and encourages volunteerism by their employees," said Bill Stoddard while he took a break from serving dinner to the evening's guests.

Joining Stoddard were fellow Wyndham Vacation Ownership employees Jacob Garcia, Sue Harley and Dee Dee Gooding. It was

Harley's third time over the past two years to volunteer with B&B through Wyndham and she "can't wait for Bread & Broth's Adopt A Day calendar to clear so she can come back to volunteer again."

As many AAD sponsor volunteers discover, helping those in need is a rewarding experience and a great way to give back. As a nonprofit, all volunteer organization, Bread & Broth provides full course dinners every Monday at St. Theresa Church and a pasta/soup meal at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church every Friday. The Sept. 15 meal was made possible by Wyndham Vacation Ownership generous donation of \$250. B&B would like to acknowledge and thank Wyndham and their employees for their community involvement in helping the needy.

To help B&B as a donor or sponsor, contact me at 530.542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Calif. may ax high school exit exam

By Diana Lambert and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

California students are getting better at passing the high school graduation exam, but the test may be on its way out.

The state is in the midst of an education overhaul as schools begin adopting Common Core State Standards, national guidelines that proponents say focus more on critical thinking and problem-solving. California education leaders say an expected shift in classroom instruction and test methods will

render the current exit exam obsolete.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson has proposed alternatives to the California High School Exit Exam that include scrapping it altogether, using parts of the Common Core test instead or relying on college entrance exam performance to determine eligibility for graduation. Lawmakers are expected to take up the issue next year, though state education officials say a new test is unlikely until July 2017.

The exit exam includes math problems at the sixth- through eighth-grade level, as well as an English portion that tests at the 10th-grade level. All high school students in California, with the exception of some disabled students, must pass it to graduate.

Read the whole story

King Fire containment expected Sunday

The King Fire burning east of Pollock Pines is 98 percent contained, having burned 97,718 acres mostly in the Eldorado National Forest. Full containment is now expected Oct. 5.

Most of the work by the more than 2,000 people on the fire is mop up and repair.

Today firefighters will continue suppression tactics in the Rubicon River Valley on the southwest flank of the fire, working toward full containment of the fire. Extreme, steep terrain is slowing containment in that area.

With warm, dry weather forecast for the next few days, residents may see some smoke from smoldering heavy fuels in the interior of the fire area. Firefighters will patrol and extinguish any remaining isolated hot spots near the fire perimeter.

The man suspected of starting the blaze Sept. 13 is scheduled to be in court later this month.

Eleven people have been injured fighting the fire, 12 homes destroyed and 68 outbuildings.

– Read the whole story

Placer search and rescue looking for donations

The Placer County Sheriff Office's Search and Rescue teams have started their annual telemarketing fundraising drive throughout the county.

This year, search and rescue is again raising money to purchase mobile communications equipment for the Lake Tahoe area. Search and rescue volunteers donate thousands of hours each year to locate lost hikers, skiers and anyone else who may need assistance in Placer County's thousands of acres of wilderness.

Telephone solicitors will be calling Placer County residents to ask for donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation will be sent a pre-addressed envelope. Callers will not ask for credit card information. Donations should only be sent to the

following addresses: P.O. Box 4150, Auburn, CA, 95604 or P.O. Box 1710, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

During recent fundraising efforts, another company calling themselves “Search and Rescue Charities” led some donors to believe that they were donating to Placer County. This is not the case and anyone interested in donating to the local search and rescue efforts needs to make sure they are giving to “Placer County Search and Rescue.”

For further information, call 530.889.7846.

Opinion: Action needed to save Sierra forests

By Mike Chrisman

As firefighters continue their valiant efforts battling the King Fire – the latest large fire in the Sierra Nevada – an important new report makes a compelling and sobering case for bold and urgent action.

“The State of the Sierra Nevada’s Forests,” issued by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, details the dire conditions of many of the region’s forests that are putting them at grave risk of large, damaging fires, such as the King Fire and last year’s Rim Fire. It further points out that the trend of increasing temperatures and drought conditions is literally “adding fuel to the fire.”

Fires in California’s primary watershed – more than 60 percent of the state’s developed water supply originates here – deliver a wide range of severe adverse impacts. These range

from dramatic decreases in air quality to setting the stage for massive erosion dirtying our water and decreasing the storage capacity of our reservoirs.

Air quality the past two weeks has been several times worse than some of the most polluted cities in the world due to smoke from the King Fire. Last year's Rim Fire emitted greenhouse gases equivalent to 2.3 million vehicles for a year.

Also, the lost habitat and recreational opportunities from major fires like these are significant. It is not an exaggeration to say that virtually all Californians are affected when these "megafires" occur.

The report points out that wildfires are getting larger and burning at higher intensity than ever before. The Rim fire burned at nearly 40 percent high intensity – meaning virtually no living vegetation is left – covering almost 100,000 acres. More acres have burned in the first 4½ years of this decade than in seven decades of the last century.

What can we do about it?

It starts by understanding the situation. Conflict over forest management and the lack of necessary resources have led many of the forests managed by the federal government in the region to become badly overgrown and at risk of large, damaging fires. The U.S. Forest Service indicates that between 6 million and 9 million acres of the land they manage in California are in need of restoration; much of that land is in the Sierra Nevada.

The solution, significantly increasing the pace and scale of science-based ecological restoration of these forests, seems simple enough. Thinning the forest and, where feasible, using controlled fire as a tool will dramatically improve forest health and reduce the risk of these types of uncontrolled wildfires.

We know that the cost of restoring these forests is much cheaper than the cost of fighting the fires and restoring the burned areas. However, making that happen is complicated and will require increased financial investment and a serious review of the policies and processes impeding progress. Digging out of the hole we are in won't be easy.

Perhaps we can learn from an effort that has been under way for more than a decade to save an important Sierra Nevada icon, Lake Tahoe. Realizing that the deteriorating quality of Lake Tahoe needed the same bold and urgent action, state, federal and local officials came together to create the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program.

The program clearly identifies the objectives and actions needed to "keep Tahoe blue" and comes with a commitment on the part of all parties to work together to achieve these goals. California, Nevada and the federal government have invested more than \$1.69 billion since its inception, and significant progress is being made.

The challenges facing the Sierra Nevada obviously exist at a much greater scale across an area that makes up one-quarter of the state. However, the time is right for just such an integrated effort between our state and federal governments, as well as those benefiting from these forested watersheds.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy, as a state agency uniquely focused on this region, has been at the center of bringing interests as diverse as the environmental community, the wood products industry and local government together to build a consensus for the need to act and to do so urgently. That foundation can be used to launch a bold effort to restore this magnificent landscape, an "Environmental Improvement Program" for the Sierra Nevada. The alternative, and consequences, of remaining on the path we are traveling should be unacceptable to all of us.

Mike Chrisman was secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency from 2003-10.