

Casinos prepare for Supreme Court ruling on sports betting

By Nicole Raz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

At least 18 states are poised to introduce bills this year to regulate sports betting, according to a new report.

Of those, the report by Eilers & Krejcik Gaming suggests 12 have a good chance of enacting legislation.

“I believe if the U.S. Supreme Court makes a decision that allows states to move freely on this issue, I think they’ll take them up on that offer,” said Chris Grove, managing director of Eilers & Krejcik Gaming in Las Vegas.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide by June on a case brought by New Jersey that seeks to overturn a ban on sports betting in all but four states: Delaware, Montana, Nevada and Oregon.

Read the whole story

‘California Field Atlas’ author coming to SLT

Artist, poet and naturalist **Obi Kaufmann** brings his best-selling “California Field Atlas” to the South Lake Tahoe Library on Feb. 27 at 6pm.

Lavishly illustrated with hundreds of hand-painted maps and wildlife renderings and based on his decades of walking the backcountry of California, Kaufmann's "California Field Atlas" is a testimony to the natural world of the Golden State, unlike anything that has come before. Full of character and color, the "California Field Atlas" has quickly become a new classic, being hailed as a "gorgeously illustrated compendium" that "...will provide you with a greater appreciation for the state's ecological jewels and landmarks."

Kaufmann will be presenting the book with a Q&A session and then offer signed copies for sale.

The talk is free.

Kings Beach man killed in suspected DUI crash

A Kings Beach man was killed in a head-on collision last weekend near Northstar.

California Highway Patrol officers said Christopher Anderson, 35, was going north on Highway 267 on Jan. 13 at 7am when his vehicle was struck head-on. The alpine race coach at Northstar was pronounced dead at the scene.

Edgar Delgado, 21, of Tahoe Vista, authorities said, was intoxicated when he drifted across the center line and crashed into Anderson's vehicle. He was taken to Renown Medical Center in Reno with non-life threatening injuries. Charges are pending.

Officers said prior to the head-on crash, Delgado had

sideswiped another vehicle.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

SLT mayor starting informal community talks

“Let’s have a conversation” is being initiated by South Lake Tahoe Mayor Wendy David.

Her goal is to host monthly informal gatherings that anyone may join. Joining her will either be another council member or someone relevant to a topic going on in town.

For the first conversation, David has invited Mayor Pro Tem Tom Davis to join her Jan. 24 from 9-10am at Peet’s Coffee inside Raley’s at the Y.

Other dates are as follow, with the guest and location to be forthcoming:

Feb. 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 11, Aug. 22, Sept.19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12.

Millions of dead Sierra trees may have helped save water during the drought

By Ryan Sabalow, Sacramento Bee

The millions of trees that died in the Sierra Nevada during California's five-year drought may have actually helped the state's water supply once the historic dry spell finally ended, according to a study.

Scientists led by UC Merced's Sierra Nevada Research Institute examined how much water was being absorbed by plant life in 1 million acres of Sierra forest along the watershed that feeds into the Kings River east of Fresno. The study, published Friday in the journal *Scientific Reports*, spanned the years before, during and after the drought, which officially ended last year.

Federal forestry officials estimate that during that time, more than 100 million trees in the central and southern Sierra died before the drought ended.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Parking an issue because of poor planning

By Bruce Grego

Milton Friedman, who in 1976 was awarded a Nobel Prize in

Economics, once said, if you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand.

Well, in the last 50 years, local government in conjunction with the TRPA, and other regional and state agencies, has been controlling parking with every building permit issued with the result that we have a parking shortage and a transportation crisis – we have run out of sand.



Bruce Grego

I have read your **recent articles** about the parking problems in Stateline and about **Harrah's** protecting its parking from Heavenly gondola skiers. Then, we have had two additional articles about parking published in last couple of weeks, one written by **Joanne Marchetta**, the executive director of the TRPA and the other council member by Austin Sass. Both Ms. Marchetta and Mr. Sass feel that we need more planning, workshops, and spending of more tax dollars to address these problems. No solutions, just lip service.

What can one conclude? First, that this parking mess is the direct result of the failure of planning, and the failure of planning to plan for reality. We are spending millions of dollars on planning at every level of government in the basin, and with this spending, we should have never come to this point. When I think of planning, it should be a better method of solving anticipated problems, and solving those problems in advance so that life for the common person is better. However, as admitted by Mr. Sass and Ms. Marchetta, this problem with

parking is not unexpected, but out of design. Governments in the basin seek to deprive us of our choice of transportation. They don't want us to drive our cars, they want us to use buses, and other means of mass transportation whether they work or not. Since, they cannot expect the public, the voters, to embrace their "transportation vision", they instead, through long term "planning", create a transportation crisis with the hope of "driving" us to their solution.

Second, it's not unreasonable to expect a private business, such as Harrah's, to protect its parking for its customers. What is not reasonable is the approval of these large projects in Stateline where the developers failed to accommodate the parking demands accurately that will be generated at their development site. For example, while the Marriott's hotel has parking only for its guests, the parking garage is clearly inadequate to accommodate the demands of the restaurants, theaters, and shops located within the Heavenly Village and the needs created by the gondola. To add to this problem, a number of years ago the city placed no parking signs throughout the Stateline area where off street parking had been allowed since the formation of the city.

It's wrong to expect adjacent smaller properties to carry the burden of unsupported parking demands of these large projects. Further, the public should not have to bear the costs of finding the solution to this parking problem. Also, our visitors should have a better experience in the Stateline area than trying to find parking, dealing with parking meters, and dealing with parking tickets.

What is the solution? Certainly, reviewing the condition for the issuance of the building permits for all these large projects, and the representations made by the applicants, to determine whether developers' obligation concerning adequate parking has been met and, perhaps, explore the suspension of the "occupancy permit" for such projects is in order until the direct beneficiaries of these projects institute an acceptable

parking solution that can accommodate their current vehicle parking demand. Eliminating “no parking signs” in Stateline would help.

Make no mistake; public transportation has a role in our transportation needs. But despite heavy governmental subsidies, it loses money and has inadequate ridership in most places in California. It seems best used by employees going to and from work, not by tourists traveling by long distances by car or local residents dealing with life’s daily demands.

Finally, we should challenge the planners in the basin, those in work at the TRPA, the TTD, and even those that work for the city, to stop using their vehicles for all purposes, and use only public transportation or private non-motorize vehicles (bikes) to go to work, take their children to school and after school activities, shop at Costco in Carson City, timely attend public meetings, purchasing 10 bags of groceries at Raley’s (and bring them home), go the movies, visit their family doctors, take their family to church, and, of course, go on vacation. Show us how it’s done and show us that public transportation is the way of the future for our transportation needs. I bet if such a program would be instituted, realistic solutions to our transportation needs will soon be forthcoming.

Bruce Grego is a resident of South Lake Tahoe and former City Council member.

Cold returns for Winter Games

in mountainous PyeongChang

By Foster Klug, AP

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea – The cold is back for the Winter Games.

After two straight balmy Olympics where some might have wondered if it was even winter, let alone the world's pre-eminent freeze-dependent sporting event, athletes and visitors alike will finally experience a serious chill in their bones during the games in mountainous PyeongChang.

How cold is it?

So cold that tears spring to the eyes. So cold the ink in a pen grows sluggish and fades as it scribbles over a page. So cold that South Korean men sometimes flash back to being posted for hours on the frozen frontline during mandatory military service. So cold at least six people were treated for hypothermia in November after a pop concert at the open-air Olympic Stadium.

Read the whole story

Career workshop for students in Truckee

Area high school and college students are invited to attend a free career workshop at the Truckee Airport on Jan. 18 at 5pm.

The career mentoring program, officially known as the Truckee Tahoe Flight Plan, is designed and conducted by Pathways to Aviation, a nonprofit organization seeking to inform, inspire, and engage the aviation's next generation. Thursday's workshop is the first of four workshops taking place at the airport through April.

Students are not required to have an interest in working in the aviation industry. While each workshop will connect students to aviation executives, who will describe various aspects of the industry, they will teach considerable career planning best practices. Students who attend all four workshops will have a greater understanding of job searching, skills identification, resume writing, and networking, as well as a numerous great new professional references.

The Truckee Tahoe Flight Plan is open to all high school and college students and entirely free of charge. For more information, go **online**.

Largest Nev. casinos earn \$1.6B during fiscal year 2017

By Regina Garcia Cano, AP

Nevada's largest casinos turned a profit for the second fiscal year in a row and finally broke the revenue record set in 2007 before the recession affected the operators' books, according to a state report released Friday.

The largest casinos in the state reported income of \$1.6 billion from total revenue of \$26.2 billion during the fiscal year that ended June 30, data from the Nevada Gaming Control

Board show. The reported income from 272 casinos was 59 percent higher compared with the previous fiscal year, while revenue was up 3.7 percent.

Read the whole story

Bay Area pedestrian killed in Incline Village

A Berkeley woman crossing the street in Incline Village on Jan. 12 died after being struck by a vehicle.

Roza Mostava, 78, was in a crosswalk crossing Village Boulevard at Lakeshore Boulevard at 5:37pm when she was hit.

The driver of the vehicle immediately stopped and rendered aid. It does not appear drugs and/or alcohol were a factor for the driver in the accident, according to Washoe County sheriff's investigators.

Mostava was transferred to Renown Medical Center in Reno where she died.

The investigation is on-going.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report