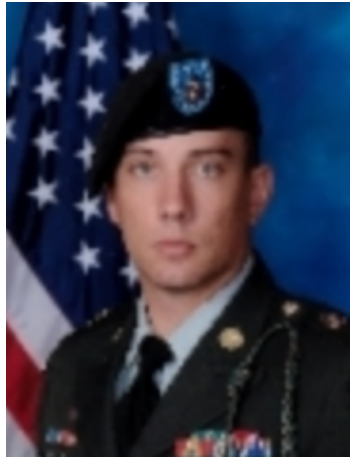


Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Sierra House Elementary School teacher Seth Martin was voted elementary PE teacher of the year by CAHPERD, the state's national association supporting professionals who specialize in health, physical education, recreation and dance.
 - Zephyr Cove Library is hosting a bird feeder crafting program Jan. 31 at 3:30pm. Children will make bird feeders out of ice cream cones, peanut butter, and bird seed. All bird feeder supplies will be provided by the library.
 - Kacey KC is now the Nevada state forester and firewarden. A native of Gardnerville, KC will be the first woman to head the Nevada Division of Forestry.
 - The 18th annual Snowshoe Thompson celebration will be Feb. 24, 9am-1pm at Lake Tahoe Golf Course in Meyers. Bring skis/snowshoes. For more info, call 530.573.8940.
 - Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules from Caltrans for the week.
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Eric Schenck – 1984-2017



Eric Schenck

Placerville resident Staff Sgt. Eric Christopher Schenck died from injuries sustained in a traffic accident while returning from a field training exercise in South Korea. He was 33.

He was born in Nampa, Idaho, to Charles and JoAnne Schenck on Feb. 24, 1984. He grew up in Idaho and California, settling in El Dorado County at the age of 8. He graduated from El Dorado High School in 2002.

After graduation Eric worked at various jobs and attended Consumnes River College part time. He did volunteer work with the Boys and Girls Club and as a Big Brother to underprivileged youth.

In fall 2009, he joined the Army. He was a medic at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. From there he was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Wash. In 2012 he was deployed to Afghanistan as a senior line medic. He deployed to Suwon Air Base in South Korea in January 2017. He died there on Dec. 8, 2017.

Eric loved hiking, jogging, and exploring his surroundings, but his greatest love was spending time with his two sons, Hayden and Damian.

Eric is survived by his children, Hayden and Damian of Meridian, Idaho; father, Charles Schenck and wife, Tami, of Fair Play; mother, JoAnne Larson and husband, Ken, of Emmett,

Idaho; sister, Chelsea Thompson and husband, Evan, of Reedsport, Ore.; stepbrother, Chris Denham of Fair Play; grandparents Charles and Donna Schenck of Nampa, Idaho; aunts: Trina Westberg and Tammy Chavez of Nampa, Idaho; aunt, Maureen Luther of Chester; uncle, Anthony Cahill of Renton, Wash.; uncle, Lester Cahill of Golden, Colo.; and numerous cousins.

A celebration of life with military honors was in Idaho.

Bowman, Wise packing bags for Winter Olympics



David Wise and Maddie Bowman will represent the Reno-Tahoe area in the Olympics – again. Photo/LTN

By Shawn Smith, NBC

David Wise of Reno and Maddie Bowman of Meyers will both have the opportunity to defend their freeski halfpipe Olympic titles.

The two gold medalists from the Sochi Winter Games qualified for PyeongChang at the U.S. Grand Prix at Snowmass, the fourth of five selection events for the U.S. Olympic ski halfpipe team.

Wise won the men's contest, topping a stacked field that included U.S. teammates Alex Ferreira, Aaron Blunck and Gus Kenworthy. In his winning run, Wise went huge and landed a technical sequence of tricks that included a switch double cork 1080 and double cork 1260s on both walls.

Read the whole story

Bay Area group to buy former KMS site

By Kathryn Reed

A group out of the Bay Area has offered to buy the former Kingsbury Middle School site for above what it was listed for.

The Douglas County School District board this week accepted the offer of \$3.75 million by Palo Alto-based Pioneer Mountain. The 22-plus-acre site in Stateline had been listed for \$3.4 million.

"We do not and have not made any absolute concrete decisions on the property. Nothing is solidified. They have a lot of ideas," Katie Foster, the real estate agent representing the buyer, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "I can guarantee it won't be a housing development or hotel. It will be used for the community of Douglas County and Lake Tahoe."

A representative at the Jan. 9 meeting told the school board

the plan is to make it a youth Christian facility.

Escrow opened Jan. 11. A \$50,000 deposit has been made. The buyer has a 75-day due diligence period. This means the deal could close this spring.

This Bay Area company has expressed interest in the school site at other times, but this is the first time a formal bid has been made.

Zoning and other regulatory issues involving Douglas County and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency will have to be addressed by the buyer.

DCSD has been saddled with the basic upkeep and utilities of KMS since it closed after the 2007-08 school year because of declining enrollment.

The district thought it had a buyer a year ago. That deal fell through when the person could not come up with the money. His proposal to build affordable housing was met with opposition from those who live down the street in Lake Village.

Opinion: USFS doesn't leave when the fire is out

By Randy Moore

Natural disasters can occur at any given time and in any given area. The size, duration and damages are usually unpredictable. The devastation, destruction and cost of California wildfires are increasing annually.

In 2017, more than 1,500 wildfires burned over 640,000 acres on National Forest System lands in California, including the Thomas Fire which is now the largest in California history. Although the fire is fully contained, the surrounding communities are presently dealing with debris flows caused by a now charred and barren landscape that no longer has the protection of trees, grass and other vegetation for a stable ground. To date, 17 people have died, several others are still missing, and more than 100 homes have been destroyed as a result of these mudslides.



Randy Moore

Additionally, in early October, a series of wind-driven wildfires burned more than 200,000 acres across Northern California. The fires destroyed thousands of structures and killed 44 people. Although the fires did not occur on Forest Service lands, the agency worked closely with state and local cooperators on fire suppression efforts.

The Pacific Southwest Region has spent over \$500 million preventing or suppressing wildfires over the last year. Funding for suppression efforts performed by the Forest Service comes from the overall agency's budget based on a 10-year rolling average—a model that is simply unsustainable, given the last several years of unprecedented fire seasons. When wildfire suppression funding is insufficient, the Forest Service is forced to shift money away from other investments designed to build healthy, resilient forests and communities. We must find a permanent solution that restores the balance between fire prevention, fire suppression and resource

restoration.

As mentioned above, many residents in California have suffered significant harm and loss from recent fires and mudslides. We see and empathize with those affected, and are working to reduce the potential for future loss by performing hazardous fuel reduction treatments. In fiscal year 2017 alone, we performed fuels reduction treatments on over 310,000 acres of Forest Service lands across the state, but there is more to be done. To date, 80 million acres of National Forest System lands are currently at moderate to high risk of insects, disease or fire. Of these, 10 million acres are located in California. Essentially, the more acres we treat, the healthier our forests become, contributing to safer and more resilient communities. The science, data and monitoring shows that hazardous fuel treatments and thinning positively affects fire behavior and lowers the catastrophic risk of fire damage. A fire funding fix will allow the USDA Forest Service to invest more in this critical work.

We are appreciative of the ongoing work of USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and Congress who have acknowledged the funding issue and are working hard to help resolve these challenges.

Fortunately, there is bipartisan support from key leaders in Congress toward legislation to reform the way wildfire suppression is currently funded. Finding a permanent solution to fix the fire funding problem will go a long way in sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of our nation's forests and grasslands for current and future generations.

Randy Moore is the regional forester for the Pacific Southwest Region, which includes the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Moon about to do something it hasn't done in 150 years

By Alex Harris, Sacramento Bee

Call it whatever you like – a blue red moon, a purple moon, a blood moon – but the moon will be a special sight on Jan. 31.

Three separate celestial events will occur simultaneously that night, resulting in what some are calling a super blue blood moon eclipse. The astronomical rarity hasn't happened for more than 150 years, according to Space.com.

A super moon, like the one visible on New Year's Day, is the term for when a full moon is closest to the Earth in its orbit, appearing bigger and brighter than normal.

[Read the whole story](#)

Hairless bear from Placer County recovering



Eve lost her hair due to a severe case of mange.

By Barbara Harvey, Sacramento Bee

A young, hairless bear cub rescued in Placer County in December is recovering well after being transported to a wildlife rehabilitation center in Southern California.

The cub, who was found to be suffering from a severe case of mange, was rescued by good Samaritans before being turned over to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife spent Christmas Eve transporting the cub hundreds of miles to the Fund For Animals Wildlife Center in Ramona, which is outside San Diego.

Read the whole story

Lack of snow slows Vail Resorts revenue stream

By Jason Blevins, Denver Post

Vail Resorts on Friday assigned numbers to the so-far-anecdotal evidence that the slow start to the season is pinching the resort industry.

The continent's largest ski resort operator showed steep declines in spending and visitation at its network of North American ski resorts. Ski-school revenue through the first week of January was down 4.5 percent compared to last season. Retail sales were down 11.5 percent. Skier visits to Vail Resorts' 11 destination ski areas in Colorado, California,

Utah, Vermont and British Columbia were down 10.8 percent.

Still, thanks to skiers and snowboarders buying nearly 750,000 Epic Passes for 2017-18, the company's season-pass sales revenue was up 1.6 percent compared to the same period last season. In early December, the company reported that Epic Pass sales were up 14 percent in units and 20 percent in revenue compared to the previous season.

Read the whole story

Brown raises prospect of pension cuts in downturn

By Romy Varghese, Bloomberg

Gov. Jerry Brown said legal rulings may clear the way for making cuts to public pension benefits, which would go against long-standing assumptions and potentially provide financial relief to the state and its local governments.

Brown said he has a "hunch" the courts would "modify" the so-called California rule, which holds that benefits promised to public employees can't be rolled back. The state's Supreme Court is set to hear a case in which lower courts ruled that reductions to pensions are permissible if the payments remain "reasonable" for workers.

"There is more flexibility than there is currently assumed by those who discuss the California rule," Brown said during a briefing on the budget in Sacramento. He said that in the next recession, the governor "will have the option of considering pension cutbacks for the first time."

Read the whole story

Nev. DMV partners with feds to fight human trafficking

By Briana Erickson, Las Vegas Review-Journal

About a decade ago, a Swedish woman traveling to Las Vegas met a man and fell in love. But he turned out to be a pimp, and he held her hostage for two years.

“That really opened my eyes,” said Lena Walther, a Swedish consul to Nevada who attended a National Human Trafficking Awareness Day event Thursday.

Walther, who runs an organization that helps human trafficking victims, said she managed to get the woman and her baby out of their situation. But there are millions of others like her.

Read the whole story