# USOC is full speed ahead to the Winter Olympics

**By Rick Maese, Washington Post**

While senior members of the Trump administration have suggested that tensions on the Korean Peninsula could force the United States to skip the Winter Olympics, the U.S. Olympic Committee on Friday reaffirmed its intention to send a full squad to the PyeongChang Games in February.

USOC officials were taken aback this week when two high-ranking members of the Trump administration appeared to cast some doubt on the United States' participation in the Olympics, citing possible security concerns and safety issues. U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley said it was an "open question" and White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said "no official decision has been made" as to whether the United States would send a team. Both later softened their stance, and Sanders tweeted, "The U.S. looks forward to participating in the Winter Olympics in South Korea."

**Read the whole story**

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# Snippets about Lake Tahoe

· Azul's $10 enchilada buffet is a fundraiser for Tahoe Youth & Family Services. It will be Dec. 12 from 5-9pm at the South Lake Tahoe restaurant.

· Bakery staff elves at Harrah's and Harveys Lake Tahoe have created two gingerbread wonderland displays in the

lobbies of each hotel by using 1,000 pounds of fresh gingerbread dough, 1,200 gingerbread cutouts, 1,200 sugary tiles and shingles, 180 pounds of royal icing, 300 candy canes, 40 pounds of candy, and 32 pounds of dark chocolates.

· The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has selected 39 projects to receive $39.7 million funding from its Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1) funds. The lone regional project is for meadow restoration in the Truckee and American River Watersheds ($632,098 to Truckee River Watershed Council).

· Owners of the Crossing in South Lake Tahoe, California Tahoe Conservancy, city of South Lake Tahoe and Vail Resorts are working on a workforce housing agreement for the property at 2070 Lake Tahoe Blvd. CTC owns it. It’s adjacent to the Crossing.

· Curbside tree collection in Incline Village is Jan. 8-12. Trees must be cut into 3-foot segments and not have decorations. Full trees may be taken to Preston Field from Dec. 22-Jan. 29.

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# Keep Christmas merry by properly securing tree to vehicle

**By Art Marroquin, Las Vegas Review-Journal**

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches.

Until they damage your car. Or worse, tumble onto the street.

Picking out that perfect evergreen centerpiece is a time-honored tradition for many families, but taking it home can sometimes pose a challenge.

Failing to properly secure Christmas trees can damage your vehicle or create a road hazard for other motorists.

**Read the whole story**

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# For some skiers, it’s uphill all the way

**By Elaine Glusac, New York Times**

In a DIY precursor to downhill skiing, the latest on-slope trend is to go uphill.

Called skinning, the activity of walking up a downhill slope on skis to schuss back down exemplifies a no-pain, no-gain ethos among skiers determined to earn their turns for the sheer challenge (or to burn calories). Skinning falls under the family of activities known as uphilling, which includes snowboarders using special split boards, snowshoers and hikers.

What was once strictly a backcountry practice, used to explore ungroomed, off-piste terrain, is becoming more common in the front country. Fifty percent of ski resorts in the country now allow uphill skiing on their slopes, according to the National Ski Areas Association, an industry resort group. Several are adding new uphill ski races this year.

**Read the whole story**

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# Mancuso returns to ski racing

**By Sean Higgins, Ski Racing**

It was an interesting weekend of racing in St. Moritz, Switzerland, to say the least. Weather forced the cancellation of two out of the three days of women's World Cup action with a lone super-G from a lowered start taking place on Saturday.

One could say the real winner of the weekend was the infamous "Maloja Snake." The notorious weather phenomenon is caused by warm air rising up the nearby mountains and forming a thick layer of low-lying fog that winds its way through the St. Moritz valley. It caused more than a few problems for racers over the three days of action.

Friday's alpine combined saw the much-anticipated return of America's most decorated female Olympic skier, Julia Mancuso, but after morning weather forced organizers to flip the script and run the slalom portion first, the fog failed to clear in time for the afternoon super-G run. The day was unfortunately scrapped after the slalom run with Mikaela Shiffrin leading and Squaw Valley's Mancuso feeling out her race legs.

**Read the whole story**

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# K’s Kitchen: Polenta with mushroom ragout

**By Kathryn Reed**

I could have this dish every week. It satisfied my need for comfort food on a cold night and as well as what seems to be a never-ending mushroom craving.

The trick to polenta is you can’t leave the kitchen. It takes constant stirring.

The rest of the dish is pretty straight forward and easy. That is the wonderful thing; people will think you spent more time in the kitchen than you really did.

It’s a hearty concoction. For me, it was a meal unto itself.



**Polenta with Mushroom Ragout**

¼ C olive oil

1½ pounds sliced cremini or baby portabella mushrooms

1 C chopped shallots

2 T tomato paste

1 T fresh thyme

¼ C dry white wine

1½ C vegetable broth

1  tsp kosher salt, divided

¼ tsp pepper

¼ C unsalted butter

¼ C flat leaf parsley, chopped and divided

1 C polenta

2 C mixed cheddar/Monterey jack cheese

Heat a large deep frying pan over medium-high heat until a drop of water dances across its surface. Add oil and mushrooms. Cook about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium and stir in shallots. Cook until mushrooms have released their liquid and shallots are tender. Stir in tomato paste and thyme. Stir in wine, and cook until it’s mostly evaporated.

Add broth, half teaspoon salt, and pepper. Simmer until sauce thickens and mushrooms are tender. Remove from heat and stir in butter and 2 tablespoons parsley.

Cook polenta according to directions. Remove from heat and add cheese.

Divide polenta into four bowls, then top with mushroom mixture, garnish with remaining parsley.

# Letter: Make your opinion known about net neutrality



Bill Kingman

**To the community,**

The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) has a vote scheduled for Thursday that could have a deleterious effect on us internet users. This 2 1/2 minute **NBC report** explains it.

Our internet freedoms of choice and access – as well as costs – are at issue. While we public mere mortals don't control the FCC – the commissioners are appointed by the president – the FCC is controlled by Congress. So, if you oppose removal of net neutrality, tell your elected representatives promptly.

**Bill Kingman, Stateline**

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# Cooperation key to improving Placer County

**By Kathryn Reed**

Partnerships and collaboration are making a difference in

Placer County.

The California Tahoe Conservancy has been a huge player in getting water quality projects, bike trails and other improvements established. In all, the CTC has poured about $62 million into the lake portion Placer County.

At the state agency's board meeting last week in South Lake Tahoe reps from the CTC, Placer County, North Tahoe Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, California State Parks and North Lake Tahoe Resort Association talked about what has been accomplished and the work that is left to do. Many projects overlap jurisdictions, with funding coming from multiple sources, with benefits to all.

"We are looking at it from a watershed scale," Kansas McGahan with Placer County said of projects. It means looking at water quality, stream environmental zone, air quality, and economics among other criteria together. This approach gives more depth to projects.

Sixteen multi-benefit watershed projects have been completed since 2001. That was the year the county established the Tahoe Engineering Division. A key purpose to doing so was to work specifically on environmental improvement projects as they relate to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's Regional Plan.

Placer would like to see transportation projects be considered under the EIP umbrella.



Lakeside Trail in Tahoe City is decorative, has interpretive signs, seating and endless views of the lake. Photo/LTN file

McGahan said the county's current focus is the Griff Creek corridor, which includes putting in a roundabout at highways 267 and 28, and cleaning up the corner and making the creek more viable. Fanny Bridge replacement is also high on the list, as are completing the Dollar Creek trail and the North Tahoe bike trail.

For Kim Boyd with the Tahoe City PUD she called completion of the Lakeside Trail the "missing link." Funding is a stumbling block, though the exact route has also not been finalized.

The public utility districts on the North Shore have recreation as one of their main objectives, in addition to water and sewer obligations. TCPUD operates the only public boat ramp on the North Shore at Lake Forest.

Reps talked about Pomin Park in Tahoe City, in TCPUD's jurisdiction, being ripe for water quality projects. While people are talking about possibilities to move the field out of what is essentially a wetland, just wiping out the recreation facilities and not replacing them is not a viable option.

TCPUD and NTPUD officials are worried about having proper firefighting capacity. It’s one thing to have enough water and pressure to fight a house fire, it’s another to go into the wildland urban interface to douse flames.

Duane Whitelaw, general manager of NTPUD, is a former fire chief in the basin. He’d like some of the firefighting issues to fall under the EIP program.

Regulatory agencies like TRPA and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board track EIP projects and then reward/penalize jurisdictions based on accomplishments.

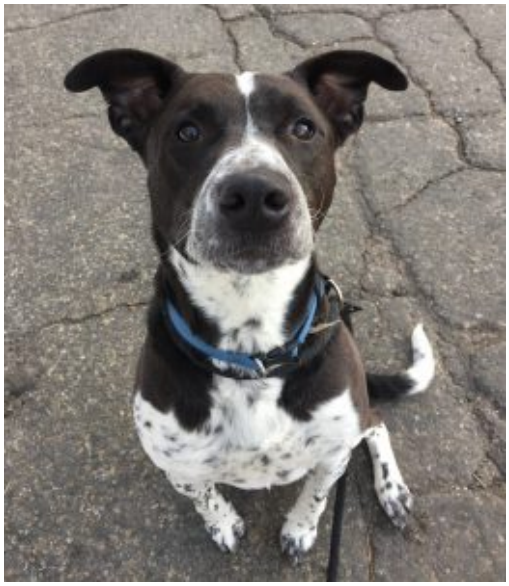
The next big project in the Tahoe basin for State Parks will be work in Kings Beach, most notably the pier replacement. The draft environmental documents are expected to be released for public comment just after the first of the year.

The North Lake Tahoe Resort Association is a big player because it is the recommending body for Placer County for how 2 percent of the hotel tax collected in the Tahoe area is then invested back into the community.

NLTRA is looking at how to raise more money. Increasing the transient occupancy tax, which is at 10 percent, and hiking the 7¼ percent sales tax are under serious consideration.

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# Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Dex

Dex is a very sweet 2 year old border collie/Australian cattle dog mix. He is a little shy at first, but pretty soon after meeting new people he is leaning in for pets. He loves to go for walks.

Dex weighs about 40 pounds. He likes other dogs and has lived with cats. He would do best in a home with children over 12.

Dex is neutered, microchipped, 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**.

# Snowboarder dies at Sierra-at-Tahoe

**By KCRA-TV**

A 23-year-old man died Thursday after crashing on an intermediate trail at Sierra-At-Tahoe, resort officials said.

David Karlin’s parents said he was a Sacramento State University student.

The crash happened about 1:15pm Dec. 7 when ski officials said Karlin lost control on the hill, slid off the trail and hit a snow fence. Karlin was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, witnesses said.

Karlin’s friend, Tony Gonzalez, was with him during the accident.

**Read the whole story**