Nev. lawmaker wants to ban sanctuary cities

By Ben Botkin, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY — A group associated with state Sen. Michael Roberson filed paperwork Monday for an amendment to prevent sanctuary cities in Nevada to be added to the 2018 ballot.

The filing with the Nevada secretary of state was submitted by Prevent Sanctuary Cities political action committee. Nevada has no official sanctuary cities — jurisdictions where local law enforcement limits its cooperation with federal immigration authorities — but state legislation was proposed this year to create sanctuary cities.

Roberson, R-Henderson, said the constitutional amendment is needed to prevent laws that would make Nevada a sanctuary state.

Read the whole story

Wildfires can attack houses from the inside

By Lauren Sommer, KQED

It’s not just residents in the northern Bay Area who are at risk from wildfire. Millions of other Californians live in fire-prone areas and many homes were built before modern fire codes.

Buildings don’t have to lie directly in the path of the flames to be at risk. The larger concern comes from something much smaller.

“During a wildfire, the major source of ignition is the wind-blown ember that lands on or near the house,” says Steve Quarles of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

Read the whole story

Housing development proposed near Alpine Meadows

The Alpine Sierra subdivision project calls for 47 single-family residential units and five secondary dwelling units in Alpine Meadows on about 47 acres.

Public comments on the draft environmental impact report close Nov. 3.

Lot sizes would range from 0.41 to 1.0 acres, averaging 0.70 acres.

Up to five of these lots would be allowed to include separate guest facilities. The 20 lots in the western portion of the project site are proposed to include 14 halfplex sites and six custom cabin home sites.

The proposed subdivision site is located within Bear Creek Valley on the east side of Alpine Meadows Road, approximately 0.25 miles north of the Alpine Meadows Ski Resort and 2.7 miles west of Highway 89.

To comment, email afisch@placer.ca.gov.

Snowshoe tours to include star gazing

Tahoe Adventure Company and Tony Berendsen, who writes the Star Guide column for *Lake Tahoe News*, are pairing up this winter for the telescopic tours of the midnight sky.

It all starts with guided sunset snowshoeing, followed by a tour of the midnight sky.

Dates are:

Dec. 16: Extraterrestrials
Jan. 6: Our place in the cosmos
Feb. 18: The sun’s lost siblings
March 9: Stellar nurseries.

Typical distance is one to three miles, with tours usually between 5-9pm. Difficulty is easy to moderate, and appropriate for ages 8 and older.

Cost is $85 per person. This includes snowshoes, trekking poles, guides, permit fees, hot drinks, and snacks. Go **online** to book a spot.

Letter: Planning to vote yes on Measure C

To the community,

Ever since I moved to South Lake Tahoe, potholes and cracks have covered our city's roads and presented a danger to residents. We have all seen cars swerve all over the road, only to realize it's not a drunken driver, but rather someone trying to avoid potholes. Our roads should not be in such disrepair, that a simple trip to the grocery store can feel like an obstacle course. We need to solve this problem.

Instead of kicking this can down the road (so to speak) to make street safety someone else's problem, I am taking action by supporting Measure C. Measure C will fix the terrible potholes on our local streets, improve roadway safety, and ensure that local police and fire vehicles can reach emergencies quickly.

The longer we wait, the more expensive these road repairs will become. Measure C ensures tourists pay a significant portion of the cost of road improvements, and the funds received under Measure C will actually go towards these improvements, and can never be used for any other purpose, which was my greatest concern. We cannot afford for Measure C to fail. Please vote yes.

Kelly Montgomery, South Lake Tahoe

EDC taking its time addressing VHR concerns



Cherie Raffety, El Dorado County tax collector, talks VHRs on Nov. 1 in South Lake Tahoe.

By Kathryn Reed

If the intent was to waste 2½ hours of people's lives, the goal was accomplished.

If the intent was to educate people about the El Dorado County's policies on vacation home rentals, it was a poor attempt to do so because the only department represented at the Nov. 1 meeting was the tax collector.

If the intent was to find out what people want changed with the current policy, it was a haphazard approach that took more time than needed. Instead of allowing people to take three or five or some other arbitrary number of minutes to talk, county Treasurer-Tax Collector Cherie Raffety selected a topic and

had people speak to it. This meant the more than 70 attendees had to wait the entire time if they wanted to address each of their individual concerns.

And then Raffety, who is an elected official – not staff, ended the meeting before everyone had their say.

Many of these same people in October gave the Board of Supervisors their two cents when the electeds were in town for their annual Tahoe meeting. ***Lake Tahoe News*** was the lone local media outlet to cover that meeting.

It would have been more effective for Raffety to put out a survey with pointed questions as well as open ended ones to gather input. Plus, that approach would reach a greater number of people – including out of town VHR owners who can't attend a 2pm Wednesday meeting.

It was also perplexing since the elected officials are doing their own intel gathering. Raffety said the point of her meeting was to get info to bring to the supervisors for a potential ordinance revision.

El Dorado County first adopted its VHR ordinance in 2004.

Supervisors Sue Novasel and Michael Ranalli are the members of the board's ad hoc committee that is tasked with addressing the VHR issue throughout the county – not just the basin. While Tahoe is a problem, the Apple Hill area also has a great number of short-term rentals.

Those two have met with staff twice and plan to conduct public meetings in the future, though they may not occur until after the new year.

Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News* those meeting will include all appropriate departments "and anyone else we need to sit down with the public to have these discussions."

At the meeting on Wednesday many of the complaints were the

same ones people in South Lake Tahoe have – trash, noise and parking. The frustrations are so great that some called for moratorium, much like the city is on a path to enact.

Most who spoke were against VHRs in residential neighborhoods, saying this is a commercial use of a home. Legally, though, that argument is not valid. Still, the county could ban these types of rentals if so desired.

While VHR and real estate industry reps were in the audience, they did more listening than talking.

Opinion: Bump at the pump wasn't necessary

By Ted Gaines

California already has some of the highest gas taxes and worst roads in the country. As of Nov. 1, our gas taxes are second to none.



Ted Gaines

The largest gas tax increase in California's history took effect Wednesday. Motorists will now be paying an additional 12 centers per gallon of gasoline and 20 cents per gallon of diesel fuel as a result of Senate Bill 1, the $5.2 billion

annual transportation tax proposal passed earlier this year.

The frustrating thing is that we didn’t have to take a single penny from Californians in new taxes to fix our roads. But after years of diverting billions of transportation dollars to ridiculous pet projects like the high speed rail, we’re now left paying for the same service twice.

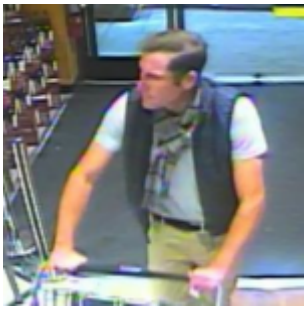
So how are the people supposed to believe that this time, the new gas tax money collected will actually be spent on transportation when 30 percent of the new funds have already been allocated to non-road projects like state parks and mass transit?

Also frustrating is the timing of the gas tax increase. It’s no coincidence that Nov. 1 is the day when California retailers begin switching from summer to the less-expensive winter gasoline. Winter blends usually run about 12 cents less per gallon than summer blend. Essentially, the switch to winter blend will be even with the gas tax increase, so Sacramento politicians are hoping consumers won’t notice the bump at the pump.

This was not the only option. Republicans developed a transportation plan that would have provided funding without raising taxes. But apparently we’re in a legislative contest to see how expensive we can make staple goods and how unlivable we can make this state for the poor and middle class. We aren’t taxing champagne and caviar. Transportation is a basic need to live and work and raise a family.

Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou counties.

Thief takes $15,000 in wine from grocery store





Sheriff’s investigators believe this man stole $15,000 worth of wine and they want to find him. Photos/Provided

A thief in Incline Village knows his wine. The 55 bottles he is accused of stealing have a value of about $15,000.

Sheriff’s deputies said an unidentified man entered the Raley’s store just before 7pm on Oct. 23 and left with a

shopping cart full of mostly high-end wine.

Some of the wine that was taken include:

- Joseph Phelps 2012 Insignia red wine, valued at $239.99 per bottle
- 23 bottles of Caymus 2013 Special Select Cabernet, valued at $165.70 per bottle
- 2 bottles of Stag's Leap 2014 SLV Cabernet, valued at $157.13 per bottle.

The suspect is described as a white male, approximately 6-feet tall, 180 pounds, and wearing flip flops.

Anyone with information about this theft is asked to contact the Washoe County Sheriff's Office at 775.328.3320 or Secret Witness at 775.322.4900.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Americans retire later, die sooner, sicker in between

By Ben Steverman, Bloomberg

The U.S. retirement age is rising, as the government pushes it higher and workers stay in careers longer.

But lifespans aren't necessarily extending to offer equal time on the beach. Data released last week suggest Americans' health is declining and millions of middle-age workers face the prospect of shorter, and less active, retirements than their parents enjoyed.

Here are the stats: The U.S. age-adjusted mortality rate—a

measure of the number of deaths per year—rose 1.2 percent from 2014 to 2015, according to the Society of Actuaries. That's the first year-over-year increase since 2005, and only the second rise greater than 1 percent since 1980.

Read the whole story

Placer County a talent pool for football stars

By Joe Davidson, Sacramento Bee

What's going on in Placer County with all of the football talent sprouting across the country?

Offense, defense and special teams, they are everywhere, be it the NFL, the Pacific-12 Conference, the Mountain West, the Big Sky or small programs.

Leading the rampaging charge is Eddie Vanderdoes, the pride of Placer High School. The Raiders' third-round pick has started every game at defensive tackle for Oakland this season.

Read the whole story