

Passport to Dining tickets on sale

Passport to Dining, North Tahoe's flavorful fundraiser features up to 35 food, wine, beer, and other beverage tasting stations as well as a silent auction and raffle chock-full of valuable items.

The event will take place Nov. 9, 6-9pm at a new venue, Tahoe Biltmore. It is a fundraiser for North Tahoe Business Association.

This year, a portion of Passport to Dining's proceeds will be donated to Project MANA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of hunger and its detrimental effects upon individuals, families, the community, and region.

Tickets are \$40 **in advance** or \$50 day of event.

Placer deputy keeps eye on furry would-be burglar

By David Caraccio, Sacramento Bee

A Placer County Sheriff's Office deputy encountered a big bear sauntering down North Lake Boulevard Tuesday night in Kings Beach.

"Hey, big boy. Don't be breaking into any of them businesses," the deputy joked from his car. The bear slowly walks down the street from the Taco Bell and then crosses to the lake side of the boulevard.

Placer County Sheriff's Office posted the video on Facebook, and people had fun interactions in the comments.

Read the whole story

Chancellor has high hopes for Nevada colleges

By Natalie Bruzda, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Thom Reilly believes there is no more time to waste.

The Nevada System of Higher Education chancellor has been on the job for only two months, but he has a bevy of goals ready for the state Board of Regents meetings this week.

"We need to build our budget. We need to get ready for the (2019) Legislature, and identifying what our focus should be is important," Reilly said. "The time is now. We can't wait much longer."

Beginning Thursday, the board will convene for a two-day special meeting and workshop to discuss, among other issues, the five goals Reilly has identified, with improving access at the top of the list.

Read the whole story

Champions Plaza sculpture to be unveiled

The unveiling of the Spirit of Competition bronze sculpture at Champions Plaza in South Lake Tahoe will take place Oct. 27 at noon.

On the heels of the 2014 Winter Olympics, in which several local athletes earned Olympic medals, the idea of creating a Champions Plaza was born. To honor and recognize these athletes the City Council approved the construction and design of a Champions Plaza at Lakeview Commons.

The approximate 11-foot bronze sculpture which represents male and female athletes reaching for a ring is being created by Gareth Curtiss.

In the spring the athletes will be inducted.

Eldorado forest roads to be repaired



A front end loader operated by Steelhead Constructors on the 11 Pines Road storm damage project.
Photo/USFS/Jon Jue

Work is in progress to repair the top three road damage priorities in California's national forests after last winter's storms, and all three are in the Eldorado National Forest.

The Federal Highway Administration is providing \$6.8 million to repair 11 Pines Road and Blacksmith Flat Road in the Georgetown Ranger District and Ellis Road in the Amador Ranger District.

The goal is to complete work on 11 Pines Road and Blacksmith Road before this year's winter weather sets in. The work on Ellis Road will begin next spring.

An expedited environmental review under an emergency authorization made it possible to put a contract out for bid quickly.

Blacksmith Flat Road is used regularly by Placer County Water Agency to access high hazard dams. A still-active landslide on Blacksmith Flat Road makes this repair job dangerous and technically challenging.

Severe winter storms in 1997 and 2003 also caused extensive road damage in the Eldorado National Forest and throughout California.

Burning Man announces 'I, Robot' theme for 2018

By Jenny Kane, Reno Gazette-Journal

Sci-fi freakazoids, this is your year to flourish.

Burning Man announced its 2018 theme this week, "I, Robot," a theme inspired by the 1950 collection of short stories published by author Isaac Asimov. The stories tell the fictional history of robots.

The theme was chosen by Burning Man founder Larry Harvey and Stuart Mangrum.

[Read the whole story](#)

Insured losses top \$1 billion in NorCal fires



The exact cost of the October fires will

take months to tally. Photo/CalFire

By Joseph Serna, Sonali Kohli and Makeda Easter, Los Angeles Times

Deadly wildfires in Northern California have caused over \$1 billion in insured losses, according to California's insurance commissioner.

Preliminary loss figures released Thursday by State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones estimate total insured losses at \$1.045 billion.

The insurers – eight of California's largest – also found that there were 4,177 partial residential losses, 5,449 total residential losses, 601 commercial property losses, and over 3,000 auto losses.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Wine Country fires wake-up for Tahoe

By Joanne Marchetta

The heartbreaking fires in Northern California's Wine Country this month have upended hundreds of thousands of people's lives. In just over one week, the fires across Northern California burned more than 220,000 acres, destroyed 6,000 buildings, and killed more than 40 people. Our hearts go out to our neighbors in Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino counties.

The Angora Fire left the Tahoe region with special empathy for

the distress so many people are going through with these wildfires, although their situation is far more devastating. And these fires, like the Angora Fire, are yet another grim reminder that our lives and our livelihoods depend on the continued steps we take to reduce wildfire risk and prepare for even more catastrophic wildfires.



Joanne
Marchetta

Forest health remains a serious issue for Lake Tahoe. Like so many other areas, Tahoe's forests face threats from climate change, drought, bark beetle outbreaks, and tree mortality that increase the risk of wildfire. Residents, fire districts, and other local, state, and federal partners are working collaboratively to address these threats. Still more is needed.

Because of climate change, the fire season in the Western U.S. is over two months longer than it was just four decades ago. Wildfires are larger, more frequent, and burning more intensely. Drought has left forests with millions of dead trees to fuel more dangerous fires.

Improving forest health and preparing for wildfire takes action on many levels. Twenty partner agencies on the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team, including TRPA, are working together and with basin residents to address each of them. But we must continue to act now, before Tahoe's next fire is burning.

People who manage the vegetation on their property to create defensible space around homes and businesses are taking an

important first step. Properties without defensible space are much more at risk, allowing wildfire to spread among brush to structures and burn into the tree canopy through ladder fuels. More than 27,500 properties at Tahoe have been inspected for defensible space over the last 10 years. People who have not created defensible space or requested an inspection to learn what they need to do to prepare for wildfire should do so now. It is something each of us can do today, and fire agencies are ready to help.

But one property's defensible space is only as good as the neighbor's. That's why Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team partners launched the Tahoe Network of Fire Adapted Communities. Led by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District, this program is helping residents work with their neighbors and local fire districts to improve wildfire preparedness on a broader scale in our communities.

Most Tahoe neighborhoods are in the wildland urban interface: The dangerous areas where our homes and the forest meet. These areas are the top priority for removing overgrown brush and trees that could fuel a catastrophic fire. Over the last 20 years, the Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team has thinned 70,000 acres of forest in the wildland urban interface. Partners are working to treat the remaining 50,000 acres over the next 10 years. Along with more people creating defensible space, brush removal, tree thinning, and prescribed fire in wildland urban interface areas must continue for us to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk.

Just as important is expanding forest health initiatives into the larger forest. Tree mortality from drought and bark beetles is a growing danger. California now has more than 102 million dead trees. While the most severe mortality is in the southern Sierra and foothills, the number of dead trees at Tahoe has grown steadily and now stands at more than 136,000.

A collaborative tree mortality task force is working to

address these issues in the Tahoe basin. And in August, TRPA issued an emergency permit for Caltrans to remove dead and dying trees along highways at Tahoe. Work started this September along Highway 89 and will continue next spring along other highways.

The Lake Tahoe West Restoration Partnership is working on a comprehensive plan to improve forest health, water quality, and recreation opportunities throughout 60,000 acres of the West Shore, in an area extending from Emerald Bay to Dollar Point near Tahoe City. This innovative landscape-scale initiative is being led by the U.S. Forest Service, California Tahoe Conservancy, California State Parks, National Forest Foundation, and TRPA. It will help us achieve multiple project benefits in a more streamlined, cost-effective manner and develop a model for healthy forests in other parts of the Tahoe basin.

We are making progress, but have much more to do. By continuing to collaborate and work together, we can reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire at Tahoe. Each of us has a role to play, from wildfire preparedness to helping prevent wildfires—more than 90 percent of which are human caused through carelessness. Please reach out to aid those in Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino who need help now more than ever. And join us by taking action to protect the health of Tahoe's treasured forests and the safety of our communities.

Joanne Marchetta is executive director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

6 accessories to improve the ski experience

By Nikki Ekstein, Bloomberg

Sometimes a simple \$25 accessory can change your skiing or snowboarding experience as much as a \$500 private lesson.

At least, that's what I learned a few years ago in Vail. After a few trips up and down the slopes for an hour with one of the area's top instructors, the most useful thing she taught me wasn't to shift my weight or lean forward or commit to my turns earlier—though each of those skills would stay with me for years to come.

More important was another lesson I learned that day: I was wearing the wrong socks.

Read the whole story

Lawsuit seeks to strike down Nev. recall election laws

By Associated Press

A federal lawsuit challenging petitions to recall three Nevada state senators in districts with significant Hispanic and African-American populations alleges the effort is an unconstitutional attempt to replace the legislators with Republicans in violation of the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

The suit filed Monday in U.S. District Court also seeks to

strike down Nevada's recall laws, which do not require any cause or justification for a recall as long as the petition has signatures from 25 percent of voters in the previous election.

Read the whole story