

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Select El Dorado County wineries are giving Nevada residents discounts Oct. 27-19 in honor of Nevada Day. For more details, go **online**.
 - Beth Hart, a two-time Grammy-nominated artist, will be performing Feb. 10 at 8pm at MontBleu in Stateline.
 - Tahoe Adventure Film Festival brings together some of the industry's best filmmakers to premier their latest adventure sports films. It will be Dec. 9 at 6:30pm at MontBleu in Stateline. Tickets start at \$22.
 - Lake Tahoe Unified School District's board this month voted to use 100 percent renewable electricity by 2032, the same goal the city approved earlier this year. The resolution also calls for supporting green building practices, greater biking, walking and transit options for students, school lunches with more locally sourced and organic foods, additional school gardens and landscaping practices that minimize water and chemical use.
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Hope as vintners assess long-term impact of fires



The moisture in grape vines
makes them resilient.

Photo/CalFire

By Esther Mobley, San Francisco Chronicle

Many of the most powerful images coming out of the Wine Country fires last week depicted the wine industry as charred, its future threatened.

A generations-old winery engulfed in flames and reduced to rubble. Symmetrical rows of grapevines, backlit by a bright line of approaching fire.

Uncertainty and anxiety grip the wine community. And as the magnitude of the damage becomes clearer and missing loved ones are located, attention will turn to the scale of the devastation to the pastoral region's multibillion-dollar wine industry.

No one would compare the loss of wine with the loss of life. But wine is these communities' lifeblood – economic, cultural and otherwise. As Sam Coturri, owner of Sonoma's Winery Sixteen 600, put it: "Saving our lives up here also means protecting our livelihood."

Read the whole story

Road Beat: 2017 Mazda CX-3, mighty, but tidy



It's hard to find much to complain about with the Mazda CX-3. Photos/Larry Weitzman

By Larry Weitzman

Mazda is about the only auto manufacturer that has a real DNA in its entire product line. Every vehicle has killer style (Kodo-Soul in Motion), tight handling, incredible fuel economy coupled with outstanding performance, great build quality, an upscale, premium feel coupled with reasonable (low) pricing.

Mazda CX-3 is just another example of that DNA, design philosophy. Except for perhaps the entertainment system, Mazda's are some of the best all-around vehicles in production in their respective categories and class. You can't buy a bad Mazda, they are all great and once you master the

entertainment/GPS system they get even better. I took me a few weeks, but now I live with the process of changing radio stations. In some respects, there is a bonus where you can go to different media sources directly, i.e. AM to FM or XM with one click and be on the new source and channel selected without further ado. Perhaps that is the Mazda thinking behind it.

CX-3 is a small vehicle. It is only 168 inches long or a foot shorter than your average compact car. But it is wide at 70 inches while standing tall at 61 inches.

But when it comes to the actual drive quality, Mazda has the top spots. There might be equals (Honda Civic v. Mazda 3), but they are few and far between.

CX-3 for 2017 is virtually unchanged, following the philosophy of don't fix what isn't broken. Powering up the subcompact CUV is the fantastic Skyactiv DOHC, 16 valve, direct injection, Atkinson ability, long stroking inline four that in similar configuration powers the Mazda 3. Belting out 146 hp at 6,000 rpm and a bottom dwelling 146 pounds of twist at just 2,800 rpm means the in this configuration along with the six-speed auto cog swapper, responds beautifully at any speed or situation.



Specifications

Pricing

\$19,960 to about \$29,500

Engine

2.0L DOHC 16 valve direct
injection inline four 146 hp
@ 6,000 rpm

146 lb.-ft. of torque @
2,800 rpm

Transmission

Six-speed torque converter
automatic

Configuration

Transverse front
engine//FWD/AWD

Dimensions

Wheelbase 101.2 inches

Length 168.3 inches

Width 69.6 inches

Height 60.9 inches

Track (f/r) 60.0/59.9 inches

Ground Clearance 6.22 inches

Curb weight (FWD/AWD)
2,809/2,952 pounds

Turning circle (curb to
curb)34.8 feet

Fuel Tank capacity (FWD/AWD)
12.7/11.9 gallons

Cargo volume (second row
down/up) 44.5/12.4 cubic
feet

Wheels (std/opt) 16X6 inch
steel/16X6.5-inch alloy
opt/18X7 inch alloy opt

Tires (std/opt)
215/60X16/215/50X18

Performance

0-60 mph 7.91 seconds

50-70 mph 4.27 seconds

50-70 uphill 6.89 seconds

Top speed (according to Mazda) 119 mph
Fuel economy EPA rated 29/34/31 mpg city/highway/combined.
Expect 31-32 mpg in rural /suburban driving and 38 mpg at 70 mph on a level highway.

Knocking off 0-60 mph in just 7.91 seconds and 50-70 mph passing times of 4.27 seconds and an uphill run of 6.89 seconds mirrors almost exactly the same numbers produced by my 2016 test (7.89, 4.45 6.86 seconds) demonstrates the incredible build consistency of Mazda as well as its very good performance. It is responsive at any speed and full tilt boogie is rarely required. In high altitude passes the CX-3 was impressive although for safety's sake full throttle was the rule.

Now here is where it gets even better, the CX-3 in my usual fuel economy test of about 210 miles was remarkable achieving an average of 37.6 mpg going over the Sierra with no freeway constant speed driving and passing at every opportunity which means about 18 applications of full tilt boogie for several seconds at a time. Economy compact cars don't fare as well. EPA numbers are 29/34/31 mpg city/highway/combined. Overall the CX-3 averaged between 31 and 32 mpg while achieving an average of 38 mpg on the highway at 70 mph. One negative is the small fuel tank of just 12.7 gallons limits the CX-3's range and in the AWD model which will cost you about an mpg the tank is even smaller at 11.9 gallons.

More positives relate to the superb handling of the CX-3. It simply goes where you point it. Eighteen-inch alloys shod with 215/50 series rubber hangs on like a vice grip with a hint of play left for the skilled operator to deal with and create the

smiles by the mile as the fun begins. CX-3 is a blast when the road bends. If you've had a bad day and need a confidence boost, the CX-3 will deliver in spades and it's a CUV, not a Miata, always ready for a quick run to the Depot. Turning circle is a scant 34.8 feet.

Ride quality can be described as firm, not harsh and on smoother roads it is remarkably smooth handling minor bumps and undulations perfectly with no float. Sharper and larger road defects are more noticeable. It's not a Rolls Royce, but I like a firmer more controlled ride like the CX-3. Engine spins 2,400 at 70 mph and is very quiet as is tire, wind and road noise.

In this class of vehicles, CX-3 offers a buffet of safety. Get the GT Activesense package for \$1,170 which Smart braking, lane departure warning, high beam control and more which compliments all the other safety acronyms including blind spot warning. LED head lights with AFS are fabulous. Night tennis anyone?

Mazda interiors are more like a premium done with the best materials, comfortable seats done in leather good for the long haul. Instrumentation is Mazda perfect, big center tach, heads up for speed and cruise as well as the south-east quadrant of the tach, trip computer in the right hole and other ancillary info in the left hole. Then there is the center stack as mentioned above, if there is a Mazda weakness, it is the entertainment system. Too many steps and not direct enough with too much complication. And I am not a fan on the screen simply stuck in the flat surface of the upper central IP. It's too distracting, although it has one simple step of going direct to your band/channel. But you have to be in a certain mode to do that. If you listen to your own medium, no problem, but I like AM/FM/XM.

Cargo capacity is not huge, 45 cubic feet with the rear seats down and 12 cubes with them up. A foursome with clubs won't

fit comfortable. You certainly don't want to be sitting on your driver (double entendre intended, and I was going to say driver's shafts). I could go on with the jokes but I'll stop here. And talk about wedges. Oy.

Pricing is relatively inexpensive with this premium Grand Touring stickering for \$24,990 plus \$940 for the luxury suite for the ship coming from Hiroshima, Japan. The aforementioned pack plus a couple of other hundred-dollar items brought the total to a reasonable \$27,300. AWD will bring that to about \$28,500. Base models start at about \$20 large.

Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.

Actors needed for Missoula Children's Theater

Tahoe Arts Project is bringing the Missoula Children's Theater back to Tahoe from Oct. 23-28.

Auditions for the production of 'Beauty Lou and the Country Beast' are Oct. 23 at South Tahoe Middle School's multipurpose room from 4-6pm. Those auditioning should arrive at 4pm and plan to stay for the full two hours.

Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the audition.

There are roles for up to 60 children. Among the roles to be cast are Beauty Lou, Imaginary Friend, Beast, Dusty and Slim

the farmhands, Fleabite Clyde the dog, the Younger Daughters, the Older Daughters, the Country Folk and the Barnyard Critters.

Assistant directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week, and to take on essential backstage responsibilities. Students in kindergarten (must be 5) through 12th grade may audition. No advance preparation is necessary. There is a possibility that not everyone who auditions will be cast.

Rehearsals will take place all week from 4-8:30pm, depending on the role. All children who are cast must be able to attend all rehearsals for their role.

“Beauty Lou and the Country Beast” will be presented on Oct. 28 at South Tahoe High School theater at 3 and 5:30pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and seniors.

Auditions are free. If cast, there will be a fee of \$50 per child to participate. A limited number of scholarships are available. For more info, call Peggy Blowney at 530.542.3632.

USFS closing seasonal recreation sites

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will soon begin closing recreational facilities and forest roads around the Lake Tahoe Basin for the winter season.

Tahoe Valley and Zephyr Cove Resort campgrounds remain open year-round, along with Camp Richardson and Zephyr Cove resorts and beaches.

Forest roads generally begin closing in mid-November for soil protection and public safety. For specific closing dates for forest roads, go **online**.

Campgrounds on National Forest lands in the Tahoe basin managed by Tahoe Recreation, a division of California Land Management, will close Oct. 15. Campgrounds closing include Bayview, Fallen Leaf, Kaspian, Meeks Bay, Nevada Beach and William Kent. Day-use areas and beaches closing include Baldwin, Kaspian, Meeks Bay, Nevada Beach, Pope and William Kent.

Some sites remain open after Oct. 15. For a complete list of sites and closure dates, go **online**.

New normal? Ever more-intense heat, fires, drought, floods

By Stuart Leavenworth, Sacramento Bee

As portrayed in novels, the California of the future is barely habitable. Brutal storms alternate with crushing droughts. Mudslides and wildfires create waves of climate change refugees.

Fiction, right? Perhaps less so after the last week.

The wildfires in Northern California created scenes from a sci-fi horror movie: Obliterated neighborhoods; thousands evacuated or made homeless; fire authorities stunned by fast-moving blazes and tinderbox conditions that, as Gov. Jerry Brown said, “we’ve never seen.”

California is no stranger to extreme weather. Throughout its

history, it has endured natural disasters, ranging from floods to heat waves. But many scientists say the wildfires of the last week are not completely natural. Park Williams, a Columbia University research scientist, said the fingerprint of climate change “is definitely there.” Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA, agrees.

Read the whole story

Pact allows N.J. players on Nev. online poker sites

By Thomas Moore, Las Vegas Sun

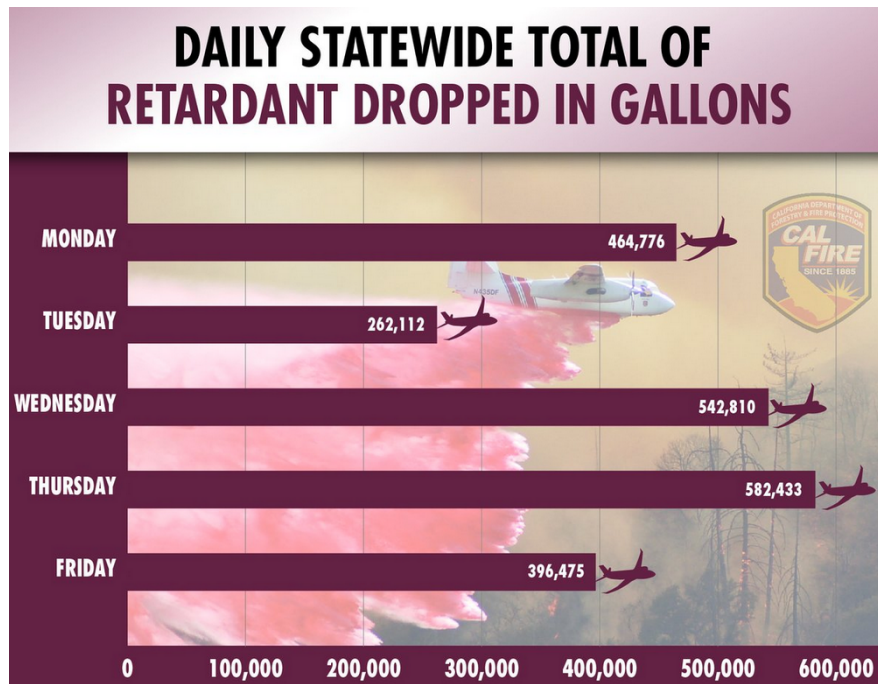
Online poker players in Nevada can now play against people in New Jersey after Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval announced Friday that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie signed the Multi-State Internet Gaming Agreement with Nevada and Delaware. Nevadans can already face online poker players in Delaware.

“New innovations and technological advancements are connecting more people and increasing the capabilities of Nevada’s gaming industry. Gaming is one of our oldest industries, and it’s imperative that we continue to look for new opportunities to explore its full potential in a changing frontier,” Sandoval said.

A.G. Burnett, chairman of Nevada’s Gaming Control Board, praised the deal.

Read the whole story

Winds ease, firefighters increase containment



Source: *CalFire*

By San Francisco Chronicle

Latest developments in the North Bay fires:

7:25am. Deadliest of Northern California wildfires now 60 percent contained: The Tubbs Fire in Napa and Sonoma Counties burned through 35,470 acres and was 60 percent contained Sunday morning, according to the latest CalFire measurements.

7:05am. Hundreds of thousands lost power in wildfires, but most service restored: An estimated 310,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Company customers lost power when a series of deadly

wildfires broke out across Northern California, according to PG&E. By Saturday night more than 92 percent of customers had power restored.

Read the whole story

Truckee to collect unused prescriptions

Truckee Police Department and the TT-FWDD (Tahoe Truckee Future Without Drug Dependence) on Oct. 28 from 9am-1pm will give the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring your medications for disposal to the Gateway Shopping Center parking lot in front of Safeway at 11290 Donner Pass Road. Remove pills from their containers or black out any personal information. Sharps, aerosols, and illicit drugs are not accepted.

This event is for residents only; no businesses or DEA registrants.

During the last two events in 2016, Truckee police collected 441.5 pounds of unused, expired, or unwanted drugs. Nationally more than 702,365 pounds were collected at more than 5,000 collection sites across the United States.

Park City much more than just a ski town



Trail connectivity in Park City is good for dogs and people.
Photo/Susan Wood

By Susan Wood

PARK CITY, Utah – When the kids go back to school, Park City goes to the dogs – or hikers, cyclists, foodies and thrill seekers searching for solace from the crowds.

At 7,000 feet, the Utah ski town is best known for its monumental winters. It's home to *Ski* magazine's No. 1 ski resort Deer Valley, now owned by KSL Partners, which also has Squaw Valley in its investment portfolio. It's also home to

Park City – which ski giant Vail Resorts has made the largest U.S resort by combining it with Canyons.

Park City is also considered a bedroom community for skiers and boarders venturing out to Little and Big Cottonwood canyons outside nearby Salt Lake City. Snow riding options abound in these two canyons – home of Snowbird, Alta, Solitude and Brighton mountain resorts.

More important, Park City was placed on the global map in 2002 by co-hosting the Winter Olympics with neighboring Salt Lake City. The big advantage here is the assortment of adventure-sports venues left for visitors and residents alike to use.



Outdoor entertainment comes in various forms. Photo/Susan Wood

In summer, visitors flock to Park City for the mild climate and outdoor adventure. But summer and winter aside – when fall

rolls around, visitation drops off when kids are in school.

This leaves miles of trails and empty seats on activity rides, restaurants and bars.

“The Park City Chamber/Bureau does do extensive work to attract guests to visit our destination year round. Since the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, we have seen the shoulder seasons (aka spring and fall) dwindle,” Park City Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau spokeswoman Rachel Buhler told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Park City was once known as a winter-only destination, but now it has earned a reputation for visitation at any time of year.”

Buhler listed the foliage as a mainstay for visitors to come out in the fall.

Park City and Canyons, the mountain operations with an alpine coaster and slide, zip line and mountain bike venue, closed at the end of September.

But the Utah Olympic Park remains open on the weekends for those seeking a thrill in three adventure courses, two zip lines at the tower and, better yet, the Comet bobsled that can transport a rider up to 3Gs (70mph) on a course that twists down the mountain. It's a thrill a minute. It closes Oct. 22.



Fall colors are low to the ground and high in the trees.
Photo/Susan Wood

To slow things down, a visitor can enjoy the solitude of utter beauty by hiking or sauntering on trails. The aspens turn a vivid yellow in some groves, with spots of red sprinkled in. Wide open, expansive views reveal mountainsides with shades of rust- or orange-colored trees against the green landscape marked with patches of white snow.

Park City is a lot like Lake Tahoe in the fall. One day may bring on 70-degree, pleasant temperatures. Another may portray an early winter, as it did leading into the last week of September as summer came to a cold end.

The scenery is exceptional at Park City this time of year.

Plus, there are more than enough places to take woman's best friend.

AJ became an Olympic dog-for-the-day when the sun came out and beamed down on the foothills atop the ridge overlooking Olympic Park.

Hikers can drive to the facility where the Alf Engen Ski Museum, training pool and adventure activities are located to pick up the Welcome Center Trail. From there, the scenery only improves as the switchbacks climb up the Nordic View Trail that leads to the ridge at Peak Plaza where the top of the ski jump comes into full view. The aptly named Legacy Ridge Trail veers off into a particularly quiet part of the mountain where it meets with the Iron Bill Trail for the descent leading back to the base at the Nordic Plaza. Not a soul was in sight.

The hike is a feast for the senses. The smell of autumn permeates the trails, with wet leaves scattered about.

If the approximately three miles doesn't fill up one's day, a hiker can just hop in the car and venture down the Olympic Park Road to pick up a system of trails in the Basin Recreation Area.

With a four-legged friend, there's a special place to stop right off the main road.

The 2-mile Run-A-Muk Trail is specifically designed for canines. It's fenced in, hence the name for dogs that love to go off leash. At the gated trailhead, poop bag dispensers have been installed. Cute signs along the way make the walk entertaining: "If your dog poops, you must scoop."

Across the road, a trailhead for a more ambitious trail awaits. Park City gets an A-plus for trail connections. A hiker can pick up the Overland Trail from the growing civilization at Kimball Junction outside of the historic town and climb up to a beautiful grove of aspens where the two trailheads intersect. The trail promises views and comes equipped with lights for night walking, along with a bench to take a break. AJ thoroughly enjoyed the endeavor.

From the main intersection at mid-mountain, hikers and riders such as the large Park City High School Mountain Bike Club may ambitiously climb up to the base of Olympic Park. It would be easy to spend the whole day in just this one section of Park City.

It's obvious based on the offerings and the activity out and about where people spend their time in Park City. Miles and miles of trails dot the landscape from the foothills to the high reaches of the mountaintops spanning more than 10,000 feet at the top of Guardsman Pass.

This massive recreational offering and change of scenery is what gets one Tahoe couple to return year after year with their mountain bikes, paddleboards, dirt bikes and tennis gear.

They enjoy starting at Stein Eriksen Lodge where they're sure to see wildlife. Sure, Lake Tahoe comes with that bonus. But when's the last time you've come up to a moose out on a hike or bike ride?

Park City has also captured the visitor seeking a unique experience indoors as well – jumping on the foodie tourism bandwagon.



Entrees like the steelhead trout at Twisted Fern rival big city restaurants. Photo/Kathryn Reed

A restaurant experience at a different level

The Twisted Fern offers a refreshing approach to dining in this recreational paradise.

This eatery on Snow Creek Drive provides that delicate balance between plentiful nourishment and an explosion of flavors at adequate prices with a lovely atmosphere.

“Park City has a significant food scene. There is a large variety of blends in town, but many people are focused on local, organic and sustainable sourcing,” Buhler, the town’s spokeswoman, said. “Many chefs in town are award-winning and bring in a heightened sense of creativity to offer foods that are new as well as old classics with a spin to the ingredients.”

She couldn’t be more right about chef-owner Adam Ross’s Twisted Fern.

For starters, the elote appetizer billed as gluten free gets the taste buds going as the combination of fried corn, fingerling potatoes, shishito peppers and cherry tomatoes to replace the off-season heirloom variety represents a perfect melding of flavors. (Warning: the corn on the small cob is a bit awkward to eat.)

To wash it down, the Delusional Donkey cocktail is a zesty vodka-ginger beer-mint concoction, while the Wasatch Smash named after the local mountain range is a smooth libation made up of spiced whiskey, lemon, rosemary and simple syrup.

Many choices fill the chef's entrée menu – without clogging it up. And these are no ordinary meal options. Highly recommended is the chicken fried portabello mushroom – a unique take on a common comfort meat dish.



Chef Adam Ross is happy to not be on Main Street in Park City. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Christy, the waitress, was more than happy to go over the ins and outs of the menu. She seemed genuinely excited to work for a restaurant and chef who care about sustainability and takes part in the farm-to-fork movement. It's a level of

understanding she said she didn't get in her home state of Pennsylvania.

The pan-seared steelhead trout, albeit from British Columbia, tasted like it jumped on the plate. The savory vanilla oats mixed alongside the arugula pesto, asparagus and pecan granola provided ideal complements to the main ingredient of the dish.

The décor in the restaurant that opened in June is as delightful as the food. There's a lighted bar off to the side of the open floor where 13 tables are adequately spaced. Outdoor seating doubles the occupancy. It's nice the restaurant has the corner space in the strip mall to provide a view of the hill outside the window. Some seating offers views of the Park City mountain itself to remind diners and even the chef himself why they are here.

Chef Ross came out 11 years ago to go snowboarding. He has never looked back.

He frequents the farmers market every week, scours the meat and mushroom channels from Idaho, Washington and Montana on a regular basis and can come up with creative ideas at any time.

"I wanted to fill a niche that no one else was doing," Ross told *Lake Tahoe News*.