

Incline woman dies in vehicle accident

An Incline Village woman died from injuries she sustained in an Oct. 7 car accident in Reno.

Karin Schulze Brown, 76, was going south in the left lane of South Virginia Street when a vehicle pulled in front of her. Brown braked, but couldn't avoid hitting the Jeep Liberty, according to the Nevada Highway Patrol.

She was taken to the hospital where she latter died.

The name of the other driver has not been released. Impairment is not suspected to be a contributing factor in this crash.

Anyone with information regarding this collision, is asked to contact Trooper Karen Garretson 775.687.9618.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Report: To cut housing prices 10%, Calif. needs 20% more units

By Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle

It could take decades and cost billions to build enough housing to make even a modest dent in home prices across the state, a team of economists reported.

Jerry Nickelsburg, director of the UCLA forecast team, said it

would take 20 percent more housing to achieve a 10 percent reduction in prices. Such a reduction throughout California would bring costs down roughly to 2014 levels, he said, citing figures provided by the Legislative Analyst's Office.

California needs to build 180,000 units of housing a year to keep up with demand, but falls 80,000 units short, according to Gov. Jerry Brown's housing department. Catching up to the demand, the department said, would cost an additional \$26 billion.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Casey Blann is now senior vice president of mountain operations for Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows.
- TRYP is hosting a free town hall about Measure C on Oct. 18 from 6-7:30m at Tahoe Beach Retreat in South Lake Tahoe. The event will be **live streamed**.
- Incline Village General Improvement District General Manager Steve Pinkerton and IVGID Director of Finance Gerry Eick are hosting a community forum to discuss IVGID's finances on Oct. 18 from 6-8pm at the Chateau on Fairway Boulevard. If attending, RSVP to info@ivgid.org.
- California Association of School Counselors named Jeff Ream, the school counselor at North Tahoe High School, the 2018 California school counselor of the year.
- Construction has started on a 3,000-square-foot restaurant and pavilion at Round Hill Pines Resort. It should be open in 2018. The old structure has been demolished.

Star Guide: Telescopes – a great gift idea

By Tony Berendsen

Every young mind, and some older ones, too, are filled with the wonders of learning and exploring. Some limit the exploration to their local neighborhood, some travel the world to exotic unspoiled locations. Well, maybe a lot of us would like to travel to those exotic locations, but adventure travel is expensive.

There is an exotic unspoiled place we can all go to that doesn't require costly travel – that's the cosmos. It's as close as your backyard. You can explore the cosmos just by looking up in the sky at night with your naked eyes, but my favorite way is to wander the depths of it with a telescope.

If you are looking for a fun, educational gift to give this Christmas, why not give a ticket to adventure and discovery; give someone a telescope.

I'm a big fan of computerized telescopes, but they can be expensive and difficult to use for the novice. **Celestron** has a new line of telescopes called Inspire that are low cost, but high value, and perfect for an entry level astronomy experience.

The telescope comes with an azimuth mount for easy pointing of its erect image optics, and a nice sturdy steel tripod designed for quick assembly with a folding accessory tray that can be illuminated by a removable red led flashlight stored in the mount.

The optical tube can be pointed accurately using the StarPointer Pro non-magnified finder scope, and comes with two eyepieces, giving a nice range of magnification.

One of the really cool things about this scope is the lens cap. It is designed to be a cell phone mount for taking images through the telescope. Imagine how fun it would be to take pictures of craters on the moon to share with your friends.

Inspire can be used as at terrestrial telescope, too, offering close up views of wildlife with an innovative calibrated focus micrometer. Yes, you can take pictures during the day using the cellphone adapter.

Inspire is offered in three different apertures options from 70mm to 100mm, ranging in price from \$179.95 to \$289.95.

This is not the only telescope Celestron offers, but one that I recommend for the novice or intermediate level observer.

I began my life of exploration when I received a telescope for Christmas from my parents when I was 8 years old. I've been exploring the exotic destinations of the Cosmos ever since. Maybe you can "Inspire" someone with a telescope for Christmas.

Tony Berendsen runs Tahoe Star Tours. He may be reached at 775.232.0844 or tony@tahoestartours.com.

Trio of climbers to share stories on North Shore

Alpenglow Sports' fourth Tailgate Talk will feature Peter Croft, Doug Robinson, and author of "Why We Climb" Chris

Noble.

The event is Oct. 25 at 7pm at the Tahoe City shop.

It will be a night to celebrate the soul of climbing with a night of stories, slides, and excerpts from the book.

“Why We Climb” is an exploration of the connection between climber and nature, an appreciation of the physical and mental skill of climbers, and a celebration of exploring the self, and the world, through climbing.

Croft and Robinson will join Noble for the talk and share their climbing wisdom and experience. Croft is a Canadian climber with an impressive list of Sierra first ascents and free solos. Robinson is a professional mountaineer and Tahoe local known for spearheading the “Clean Climbing” revolution in the 1970s, aimed at reducing the impact of rock climbing on the rock and environment. Robinson has a staggering collection of first ascents in the Sierra, and has spent over half a century guiding and sharing his love of mountaineering in the U.S. and across the globe.

Tickets are \$7 at the door. Sierra Nevada will be served, and beer donation proceeds will benefit the Donner Land Trust and Preserve Black Wall Initiative.

Bowman eager to defend gold medal in Korea

Publisher's note: *This is one of a series of stories about Lake Tahoe area athletes who hope to compete in the 2018 Olympics in South Korea.*

By Susan Wood

PARK CITY, Utah – The girl next door may become an even bigger household name.

Olympic gold medalist Maddie Bowman of Meyers is gearing up in a big way for the Winter Games next February in PyeongChang, South Korea.

At age 23, the humble, modest freestyle skier plans to return to the podium in half pipe skiing coming off the Sochi Olympics in 2014.

What new tricks are up her sleeve?

“I find a lot of inspiration when trying something new,” she responded to *Lake Tahoe News* at last month’s Olympic media summit in Park City.



Maddie Bowman of Meyers is gearing up for her second Olympics in February. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Sometimes flying in the air and landing an acrobatic move can even be an accident – unintentional but inventive. She finds the fun of her sport being creative with her friends.

“I don’t just say I’m going to try something new for the Olympics,” she said, explaining the individual nature of the sport. “Everyone has a unique style.”

Bowman has no rituals. She cross trains on her mountain bike in the woods of Tahoe – Mr. Toads being her favorite route. (She even welcomes the sandpits.)

Bowman watched every Olympic Games she can remember as a child, and it’s left an indelible mark. Her father, Bill Bowman, was a racer for the U.S. National Alpine Ski Team, so ski competition runs in the family.

Now, she’s turning a corner in maturity – wanting to give back.

“I’m in a unique position that I never thought I’d be in. I hope I inspire the athletes of younger generations,” she said.

Throw in what she calls a little “rebel vibe,” and you’ve got quite a mix destined for greatness on and off the hill. Bowman is active in the Protect Our Winters organization. POW is an environmental advocacy group consisting of athletes who use educational means to warn of the dangers of climate change.

The celebrity athlete tours schools, spreading the dire message to students in the hopes a younger generation will save the planet and the snow continues to grace the Tahoe mountains.

With her busy schedule, Bowman took a break as a junior at Westminster College in Salt Lake City to prepare for the South Korea Olympics.

She feels exuberant about the upcoming Games, including the **security** of them despite the war of words exchanged between

the United States and South Korea's neighbors 50 miles to the north.

"I do trust the State Department. They're not going to put us in harm's way," she said.

She also likes her chances at the event, especially since going out for a test run of the mountain last year. She likes how wide the halfpipe is, raising the bar for big tricks.

This year, the Olympic trials slated for December and January allow for a short window. But she'll be prepared to go and looks forward to the whole experience.



Maddie Bowman at the 2014 celebration at Sierra-at-Tahoe.

PhotoLTN file

The Olympian who took the South Shore by storm more than three years ago has had a few bumps and bruises along the way. Her knees get battered, but a relaxed-looking Bowman insists she feels great.

Of course, there's much pressure to repeat her spectacular performance in Russia and numerous podium stands at the X Games and World Cups but "I keep it in check," she insists.

Not many athletes would make a better candidate for a Wheaties box.

Part of the self-assured quality comes from knowing an entire community is behind her.

When she and fellow Meyers gold medalist Jamie Anderson came home after their stunning performances, the community threw a huge **"Golden Girls" party** for them. The duo, with fellow Olympian Hannah Teter, rode from South Lake on a vintage fire truck on a route lined by hundreds of spectators. It ended 12 miles west on Highway 50 at the trio's home resort, Sierra-at-Tahoe, where longtime General Manager John Rice greeted them with open arms.

Bowman grew up skiing at Sierra, even gaining a free ski pass when she got all A's through an incentive program between the ski resort and Lake Tahoe Unified School District.

Skiing wasn't the only sport she was good at. She was a member of the state championship-winning South Tahoe High School soccer team.

Perhaps that's why she shared such a fondness for the U.S. Olympic women's ice hockey team. She still has an appreciation for team sports.

"They're spunky and funny," she said.

Her legacy will be permanently cemented on the South Shore when she is inducted into South Lake Tahoe's Champions Plaza on Lakeview Avenue later this year. She will join the likes of Anderson, Teter, Jonna Mendes, Glen Plake, Shaun Palmer, Kyle Smaine, Elena Hight, Travis Cabral and Travis Ramos.

"I'm honored and flattered. It's so cool how the community has come together," Bowman said.

Opinion: SLT being illogical about VHR rules

By Jim Morris

I hate to waste my time, but I cannot let the erroneous propaganda put out by the emperor of City Hall go unrebutted. The city will not let go of this "nuisance" problem as it diverts focus on the dismal road conditions that the city has neglected for years. Also, city management has totally failed to provide a reliable snow removal system as we experienced last winter.

Austin Sass couldn't hold a private enterprise job in this town, but is lecturing our real estate and VHR community on how to make a living after all of the unconstitutional actions taken by this council. Sass's musings will bite the city in the future as he is feeding information regarding lawsuit material "taking of property rights."



Jim Morris

Get ready city of South Lake Tahoe as Mr. Sass nor Nancy Kerry is not keeping up with state decisions in state and appeals courts. City, check out the Aug. 22, 2017, ruling in Austin, Texas, which states that short term renting does not change a property from residential to commercial as is implied by the special use conditions recently enacted by the city.

Mr. Sass championed the new requirement that a property owner cannot get a VHR permit if his property is within 150 feet of an existing VHR. He then talks about destroying the lives of 1,350 families who "did nothing wrong." I ask the question, what wrong did the unfortunate owner who can't rent because of the geography of an adjacent rental, or an arbitrary cap? What wrong did they do?

The city manager, council, and police chief were asked the question about whether a concentration of VHRs was more impactful than a dispersion. They could and would not answer because they failed to evaluate the complaint and citation information at their disposal.

The mayor asked for patience for the sake of our community and to give this new compromise a chance. What compromise? I see no concession by the biased city manager and mayor in the imposition of:

1. 150-foot barrier to obtain a VHR permit.
2. Artificial cap with no objective criteria.
3. Hiring three new compliance officers when there is not

enough work for the one they have now. (Thirty-nine verified VHR violations for noise, parking, and trash through the busiest summer Lake Tahoe has seen in years)

4. Raising fees to defraud permit holders and violating the VHR ordinance by collecting more revenue than needed to administer the ordinance.

The city failed to answer pertinent questions regarding metrics involved in determining when “enough regulation is enough,” but this group of “rulers” has no appetite for restricting their rule-making, even though the mayor admits that the city saw an “improvement” after the last ordinance change 18 months ago. We don’t know how he comes to that conclusion as the city has admitted their mistake in exaggerating the VHR complaints by 400 percent and passed that on to the creators of the much heralded “socio-economic” study.

We expected more from the two new council members as we didn’t think they would succumb to the biased pressure as clearly evidenced by Nancy Kerry’s evasion of pertinent questions on how she constructed the 27 pages of changes to the VHR ordinance.

Jim Morris is a 30-year resident and president of Lake Tahoe Accommodations, a company producing 10 percent of the total VHR transient occupancy taxes to the city and managing 80 city properties without a VHR fine in 14 years.

Calif. students’ test scores

flatline

By Matt Levin, San Francisco Chronicle

Is there something weird about California's standardized test scores?

Last year, 49 percent of California students who took the test scored as meeting the state's reading and writing standards. This year, that number flatlined at 49 percent.

So despite most teachers and students having an additional year to get familiar with the exam, and an additional year of instruction conceivably tailored to improve on student weaknesses identified in the test, California public schools are no better at getting students to master state English standards.

Read the whole story

Building affordable housing may be too costly

By Angela Hart, Sacramento Bee

After a decades-long battle with California's building industry, developers who want to fast-track housing production – especially in cities that have not built enough housing to keep pace with rising demand – will be required to pay higher wages and benefits to construction workers beginning Jan. 1.

Five of 15 housing bills signed into law by Gov. Jerry Brown this year include so-called prevailing wage rules for

employers and contractors to pay laborers higher wages and benefits for new construction projects.

The requirements, reached after more than a year of negotiations between powerful labor groups and state Democratic lawmakers, represent the biggest expansion of union-backed pay mandates for construction workers since the late 1990s.

Read the whole story

Wildland fire in Eldorado National Forest

Wind has whipped a month-old fire in Eldorado National Forest into a more than 30-acre fire.

Lightning first started what is being called the Table Fire. It is about three miles northeast of Ice House Reservoir.

The fire was first reported Sept. 8.

As of the evening of Oct. 9 it was 5 percent contained.

— Lake Tahoe News staff report