

Massive destruction, deaths as Wine Country burns

By Los Angeles Times

At least 10 people have died and at least 1,500 homes, businesses and other structures have been destroyed as more than 14 fires ravaged eight counties throughout Northern California on Monday, authorities said.

The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office reported seven fire-related deaths late Monday. In addition, two died because of the Atlas fire in Napa County, said a CalFire spokesperson. One person died as result of the Redwood Valley fire in Mendocino County.

In Sonoma County, the dead were found "in the hot spots" of the fire, an official said.

Read the whole story

Moose are putting down roots in Nevada



Moose are taking up residence in northeastern Nevada. Photo/Nevada Department of Wildlife

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Add “moose attack” to your list of hazards in the Nevada backcountry.

The state’s northern reaches appear to be home to a small but growing number of the gangly ungulates, according to the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The increased number of sightings suggests moose are no longer just visiting the Silver State and are putting down roots.

Read the whole story

Group connecting at-risk kids to outdoors

Alpenglow Sports is partnering with Adventure Risk Challenge for Voices of Youth, Now and Beyond, a night of inspired

poetry and stories of growth through adventures in the backcountry.

It will be Oct. 13 at 6:30pm at the Tahoe City shop.

Voices of Youth, Now and Beyond is a unique opportunity to engage with and listen to brave young people share their life stories through reflective writing. It's an opportunity to learn how the communities of ARC's students are enriched by of their experiences in the backcountry.

The goal of ARC's programming is to guide local youth into the backcountry, allowing them to find themselves through nature, and bring those skills, insight, and confidence back to their communities. Their mission is to empower underserved youth through integrated literacy and wilderness experiences. ARC facilitates 40-day summer immersion courses for high school-aged youth in the Tahoe National Forest, Yosemite National Park, and Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks.

ARC's annual Voices of Youth series has a goal of raising \$75,000. ARC is incredibly fortunate to have a dollar for dollar match for this year's campaign, so the donation that you give will have double the impact. The event is free, but donations are encouraged.

On Friday, the event starts at 6:30pm for hors d'oeuvres and a beer garden before the presentation, which starts at 7:30pm. After the reading, there will be cookies and coffee from Sugar Pine Cakery and the Tahoe House Bakery.

Seating is limited. RSVP **online**.

Urbanization of South Shore

topic of history talk

Dave Borges, local historian, will give a talk Oct. 14 about the urbanization of Lake Tahoe from the 1930s to today. His talk will include road development, city government, general improvement districts, water and South Tahoe Public Utility District.

This event is part of the October AAUW general meeting at 10:30am at Lake Tahoe Community College, Room A208. It is free and open to everyone.

Borges started giving Tahoe history talks as a teenager while driving horses for his father's sleigh rides. He also told Tahoe history stories while working on the Tahoe Queen in the early 1970s and began giving Tahoe history lectures in 1986 to service organizations.

Californians spent \$681M on pot in 3 months

By Julie Johnson, Santa Rosa Press Democrat

To understand Californians' favorite methods for ingesting cannabis, Joshua Hoffman likens it to the different ways of experiencing music.

Think of smoking cannabis flowers like attending a live concert, he said. The second most popular method – vape pens – is like listening to a CD on high-end speakers.

A study based on data gathered from dispensaries across the state attempts to capture how California medical marijuana users spend money at legal pot shops – an estimated \$2.68 billion by the end of the year, according to Boulder-based research firm BDS Analytics.

Read the whole story

Casinos grapple with where to place skill-based games

By Nicole Raz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

When Blaine Graboyes approached what he estimates as “a dozen or more” casino operators in 2014 with his idea for skill-based video gaming machines, he pretty much heard the same responses.

“They said, ‘Oh, it will be 10 years before the games end up on the floor,’” said Graboyes. Or “‘By the time you have the games on the floor, we’ll have these dedicated areas for’ – back then it was called millennial areas, but now it’s grown into integrated entertainment zones or adult arcades. I hear different terms, but I don’t think any of them are perfect yet in terms of branding the space.”

A risk to dropping a machine right in the middle of the floor is scaring away traditional gaming customers, said Steve Walther, senior director of marketing and product management for Konami Gaming Inc.

Read the whole story

All-day avalanche workshop at LTCC

The fourth annual California Avalanche Workshop is Oct. 14 from 9am-4pm at Lake Tahoe Community College theater.

This is a preseason gathering of snow travelers. It's an opportunity to share knowledge, learn, and network. The workshop will feature speakers from different sectors of the winter sports industry.

This seminar is modeled after the International Snow Science Workshop and other regional one-day snow and avalanche workshops throughout the west.

Cost is \$20 in advance, \$25 that day.

For more info, email reichel@ltcc.edu.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Truckee Town Council on Oct. 20 will review a proposal to use funds generated by SB1 for the 2018 slurry seal project.
- Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized the Tahoe-Truckee Plug-In Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan with awards for most outstanding plan and most outstanding public outreach. The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Truckee Donner Public Utility District released the

plug-in electric vehicle plan earlier this year.

- Kiplinger's annual list of most and least tax friendly states has Nevada as fifth friendliest and California eighth most unfriendly.

- Douglas County libraries in Minden and Zephyr Cove will be closed Oct. 16-18 for the Nevada Library Association and Mountain Plains Library Association Joint Conference.

- TRYP will host a mixer Oct. 11 from 6-9pm at Lake Tahoe Pizza Co. in South Lake Tahoe. One free drink and complimentary pizza will be provided. Another mixer will be Oct. 17 from 5:30-8:30pm at Gar Woods in Carnelian Bay. One free drink and complimentary appetizers will be provided. Attendance is free for members and \$10 for non-members.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Fern

Fern is a 5-year-old purebred Doberman pinscher. She is a nice girl who gets along well with other dogs. Fern is a bit stressed in the shelter, but is settling in. She will need an experienced owner.

Fern is spayed, microchipped, and vaccinated. She 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.

Animal Coalition of Tahoe, which offering spay and neuter vouchers, has had to put that program on pause until more funds are raised. To donate and learn more about ACT, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Stakeholders refuse to give up on Tahoe Olympics

By Susan Wood

PARK CITY, Utah – If the U.S. Olympic Committee would be inclined to open the gate for another Winter Games in the Lake Tahoe area, like it hinted at during its annual summit in Utah last month, the coalition tasked with preparing for it would jump.

Officials will meet this week to discuss the matter.

Albeit those close to the possibility of bringing the Winter Games back to Squaw Valley and beyond after more than a half century admit it's a perceived long shot in the world of sports.



**“The flame has never
gone out over the years
as we review possibilities.”
– *Reno-Tahoe Winter Games Coalition
Chairman Brian Krolicki***

If anything, representatives should already get a medal in patience and due diligence. After all, this is the Olympics – a global event that practically invented the word tenacity among athletes.

“It’s a great chance. There are tons of locations for incredible alpine skiing. And to have them back in Reno-Tahoe – just the history of that is pretty awesome,” Tahoe Olympian Julia Mancuso told *Lake Tahoe News* during a roundtable discussion in Utah set up for the 2018 Winter Games at PyeongChang, South Korea.

Mancuso, a never-say-die, four-time medalist in downhill skiing, skis at Squaw, the host mountain in 1960 – a time of another long shot. So the idea of a return sounds intriguing to say the least.

Squaw Valley just hosted the Audi FIS Women's World Cup Tour, an event Mancuso helped plan with Chief Executive Officer Andy Wirth, but unfortunately had to sit out. At the time, Wirth – who sits on the local Olympic board –told *LTN* having the World Cup offered a chance to showcase the resort on a global level. He was looking down slope at the grand prize.

He's not alone.

"The flame has never gone out over the years as we review possibilities," Reno-Tahoe Winter Games Coalition Chairman Brian Krolicki told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Nevada's former lieutenant governor admits the difficulty may have increased with Los Angeles receiving the nod for hosting the Summer Games in 2028 – 44 years from its last honor. By the time the U.S. would host another Winter Games, more than a quarter century will have passed since the Olympics graced Salt Lake City, which received a \$200 million profit from the endeavor and developed venues visitors and residents still use today.

Getting the International Olympic Committee to buy off on back-to-back or recent returns to one nation is more in tune to a chess match.



Squaw Valley would be an integral part of any future Winter Olympics in the greater Lake Tahoe region.
Photo/LTN

The Reno-Tahoe Winter Games Coalition started this effort in 2001 with Reno sports commissioner Jim Vanden Heuvel, who died in 2009. In the last five years, the coalition has bumped its interest from 2022 to 2026, with the latter considered too close to L.A.'s latest windfall.

"I know we were prepared while thinking about 2022," Krolicki said. "We'd be ready to dust off the plan. We were ready to do this yesterday. We'd be ecstatic."

If given the chance, UNR would play an important role alongside the ski resorts.

Nonetheless, reality brings a heavy weight to the table.

"People shouldn't get their hopes up. In theory, the

possibility could be problematic,” Krolicki admitted.

Even though the challenges would not remove the option from the table, finances and infrastructure run a steep price when considering the reality. Since 1960, the Games have been all about sustainability – a catch phrase missing in the vernacular back then. Also, the venues – where to put them, how to build them, how much of them to keep – could represent “the white elephant” in the room, according to Krolicki. There is no quick fix here.

He looks forward to more discussions with the USOC, which will meet Oct. 13 on the matter.

USOC Chairman Larry Probst joined Chief Executive Officer Scott Blackmun in mentioning the Reno-Tahoe region as “definitely interested in hosting the Games” along with other cities in front of large media crowd last month. One interested region is the staging ground of the summit – Park City-Salt Lake City. Denver was also mentioned.



These are the medals that will be given out at the South Korea Games in February; Reno-Tahoe would like to start designing theirs. Photo/LTN

Everyone has an opinion.

World Cup champion Mikaela Shiffrin would like the Olympics in Vail-Beaver Creek in her home state of Colorado. But she believes the practical choice would be Park City-Salt Lake City.

"It would be amazing to compete in the Olympics in front of my hometown (Colorado) crowd. It's a dream I'm almost afraid to say but think about," she said during a press conference, but later qualified a more reasonable option during the roundtable discussions.

"(Park City-Salt Lake City) would be incredible for American athletes. It's fairly accessible (for spectators)," she said.

Halfpipe snowboarder Kelly Clark agrees accessibility matters in making a good host for the Winter Games. But despite its remote nature, she'd like the Olympics to return to California.

"I've lived and trained in Mammoth forever. My favorite mountain is Mammoth. (But) I'm not sure it's conducive (to hosting)," Clark said.

Still, Tahoe athlete Travis Ganong is partial to his home resort of Squaw Valley. He was excited hearing of a bid proposal years ago because he felt he'd be in line to compete, but now 2030 appears too far off for him to go. Either way, Ganong prefers the snow conditions in the United States versus Europe.

If anything, his snowboard cross counterpart, Nate Holland, would at least like to see Squaw host a men's World Cup – which hasn't happened in decades.

Meyers freestyle skier Maddie Bowman said "it would be great" if the Winter Games were to return to the United States because "they do such a good job."

Many choices of where to have the Olympics seem personal for a number of athletes.

Aja Evans, who runs a bobsled, joined Shiffrin in looking close to home – no matter how far-reaching the idea is.

“I’d love them in Chicago,” Evans said of her home city. “It certainly gets cold enough there.”

Fellow bobsled Olympian Jamie Greubel Poser opts for South Korea because “my sister was adopted from there.”

She’ll have her chance in a matter of months.