Placer County moves forward with trail building

Placer County Board of Supervisors this week approved two agreements to help advance the planned Resort Triangle Trail Network.

The now halfway complete Resort Triangle will consist of a continuous 62-miles of trails running from downtown Truckee to Northstar, then to Kings Beach. From there the trail will continue to Tahoe City before returning to Truckee along the Highway 89 corridor.

Lumos & Associates of Carson City will perform engineering and environmental consulting services for the Truckee River Recreational Access Plan in the amount of $249,915.

The plan proposes a multi-use paved trail segment north of Squaw Valley Road all the way to Truckee. It would connect with the existing trail, which runs south of Squaw Valley Road to Tahoe City, connecting all of the Truckee River corridor between Truckee and Tahoe City.

The plan would also identify the restoration and access improvement areas to restore watersheds and wetlands, identify staging areas and trailheads, support connectivity of three campgrounds and protect the property rights of private landowners.

The Truckee River Recreational Access Plan is expected to be finalized next summer.

Additionally, the board approved a $618,661 construction and design agreement with the Northstar Community Services District to build segments of the Martis Valley Trail, a 10-foot-wide paved multi-use recreation trail approximately nine miles long connecting the Northstar Village to Truckee.

The money comes from hotel taxes generated in North Lake Tahoe.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

· The South Lake Tahoe Optimist Club is having its semi-annual pancake breakfast on Sept. 16 from 8-11am at South Tahoe High School near the tennis courts. For $5, people get eggs, sausage, pancake, juice and coffee. Money goes toward youth programs in the community.

· Phyllis Keller and Wayne Woolway will give insights on riding in the Sierra and tackling the Tahoe Rim Trail by horseback. It will be Oct. 5, 6-8pm at Galena Creek Visitor Center, 18250 Mount Rose Highway, Reno.

· There will be a blood drive Sept. 15 from 9am-1pm in the South Tahoe Association of Realtors' conference room, 2307 James Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

· Tahoe XC Junior Mountain Riders Program runs Sept. 11-Oct. 16. Weekly club rides focus on developing safe, strong, responsible riders through instruction, practice, and fun in a healthy, supportive environment.

· The Truckee Town Council is meeting Sept. 12 at 7pm at the airport to discuss cannabis.

Real estate investors not living where they buy

By Michelle Robertson, San Francisco Chronicle

At 24 years old, Ben Hunter is a homeowner, but a sizable portion of his paycheck goes to rent for a room in an 11-person house in San Francisco. That’s because the home he owns is located about 3,000 miles east, in Atlantic City, N.J.

About 35 percent of homes in the county of San Francisco are occupied by their owners, according to census data, compared to 54 percent nationally.

Brooke Hernandez, a Realtor in Lake Tahoe and former president of the South Tahoe Association of Realtors, says about 75 percent of her clientele lives in the Bay Area. She says she’s recently worked with 10 buyers with permanent residences in the Bay Area who can’t afford to purchase homes there.

“It makes sense to me,” she said. “There’s value in investing in real estate, even when you can’t afford what’s in your neighborhood.”

Read the whole story

Power out back on throughout South Shore

Updated 10:35am:

There was yet another power outage on the South Shore.

There we 3,704 Liberty Utilities customers with no electricity on Friday morning.

A locked out circuit at the Meyers substation is the problem. Crews don’t know what caused the problem Sept. 8.

There was out for a couple hours.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Stinging things in the Sierra subject of talk

How does the 2017 yellow jacket population compare to previous years? Will a changing climate mean more regular population increases of these stinging things?

Lynn Kimsey from the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology will give an overview of yellow jacket diversity and biology, and how to distinguish them from other wasps. Kimsey will also discuss effects and treatments of stings, and even more importantly, how to prevent or treat outbreaks.

The program will begin at 6pm Sept. 21, with refreshments and no-host bar from 5:30-6pm at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center on the campus of Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

Seating is open at 5:30pm to guests who have **pre-registered**, open seating starts at 5:50pm, and the program begins at 6pm. A $5 suggested donation will be collected at the door.

National tennis tourney coming to Zephyr Cove

By Kathryn Reed

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club will be hosting its first national tournament next week – the USTA National Husband Wife Hard Court Championships.

Each year there are four main husband-wife events played on a different surface: hardcourt, grass, clay and indoors. And like the pros, if a couple were to win them all, it would be a grand slam.

It's open to any level, though most have a 5.0 or 5.5 rating. The actual categories are combined ages of 100, 120 and 140. More than 50 people have signed up for the Sept. 11-17 tournament. They are coming from as far away as Massachusetts and Florida.

Sheryl and Hersh Herschman, who live part time at the lake and part time in the Palm Springs area, are running the tournament. They are founders of the annual Tahoe Tennis Classic that is played at ZCTC, which is now run by the nonprofit that operates those six courts. For the last three years the Herschmans have run the national father-daughter and mother-son tournaments at Springs Country Club in Rancho Mirage.

"I love Lake Tahoe and wanted to bring these people up here," Sheryl Herschman told *Lake Tahoe News.*

These tournaments don't change locations every year, so in many ways this is quite a coup for the Herschmans as well as

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club and all of Lake Tahoe.

If all goes well, the Herschmans hope the husband-wife tourney is a regular fall event on the South Shore.

“USTA national tournaments are the only ones that the USTA awards the gold ball to the champions, silver ball to finalists and bronze ball to the third place winners. Being the recipient of any of these balls is considered a very impressive accomplishment,” Herschman said.

The U.S. Tennis Association is all about getting more people onto the court. Specialized tournaments like this is one way to do it.

It’s a lengthy process to apply to be tournament director, secure the location and do everything that is involved with such an event. The Herschmans started the procedure more than a year ago.



The USTA National Husband Wife Hard Court Championships will be at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Sept. 11-17. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

“Why choose Lake Tahoe? No. 1 it’s the facility, and No. 2, how do you beat Lake Tahoe?” Steve Leube, executive director of USTA Northern California, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “It’s about playing the sport of tennis and the atmosphere and what the area offers outside of tennis. There is a lot to do outside of

tennis."

That is what Herschman used to sell the area as well – the whole outdoor lifestyle, and indoor, too, if people are into gambling.

For the club, it means a little more exposure beyond the local members and couple hundred people who play in the July tournament.

"Zephyr Cove is a special tennis venue, being nestled in the forest with peeks of the lake. Our tennis community welcomes all levels of play, making it feel like a family. That's why having one of the USTA's family events here is so special," Carolyn Wright, Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation president, told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Three local couples are playing in the tournament: Holly and Ross Rittiman of Zephyr Cove, Louise and Philip Proffer of Glenbrook, and Susan Losoncy-Ruch and Lee Ruch of Carson City.

"We want to take advantage of this opportunity to play in a national tournament and to see how we do with this higher level of competition," Holly Rittiman told *Lake Tahoe News.* "Tennis is such a great sport for the whole family and I can't tell you just how much I love playing with my husband and children. I know that many spouses have problems on the court together … what can I say, Ross is very tolerant and forgiving."

Actual play starts Sept. 12. There is no charge to watch the various matches. Food will be available as well as merchandise.

Opinion: Calif. fights feds over states' rights

By Dan Walters, CalMatters

California's Democratic state government is exerting "resistance" to the Republican federal government on issues such as immigration and climate change.

California insists, under the doctrine of "states' rights," that President Donald Trump and a Republican Congress should not interfere with state policies on those and other issues that reflect Californians' views.



Dan Walters

Meanwhile, however, the state finds itself facing similar conflicts with its own local governments over attempts to force them to comply with decrees from Sacramento.

A prime example is an effort by Gov. Jerry Brown and Democratic legislators to compel cities to build more housing.

Although the state has long set paper quotas for housing construction, they lacked enforcement teeth. That has allowed cities to ignore the quotas when projects faced, as they often do, opposition among current residents, a syndrome known as "not in my backyard" or NIMBY.

With new housing construction generating barely half of the projected annual need of 180,000 units, Brown and lawmakers

are negotiating details of legislation that would overcome NIMBYism and compel cities to approve projects meeting certain criteria, thus eroding their traditional land use powers.

City officials don't like it. The League of California Cities says the governor's streamlining proposal violates "the principles of local democracy and public engagement," thus echoing complaints from Brown and other state officials about high-handed federal decrees.

Housing policy is not the only point of friction between state and local officials. For instance, members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Democrats, are complaining loudly about a pending measure that would radically change the county's governing structure, saying it heavy-handedly violates local control.

Senate Constitutional Amendment 12, carried by Los Angeles County Sen. Tony Mendoza, would expand the county's five-member Board of Supervisors to at least seven members after the 2020 census and, most importantly, shift much of its power to an elected county executive.

Many other examples abound, and one of the most significant is Assembly Bill 1250, which would virtually prohibit counties from using private contractors or even non-profit groups, from providing county services.

The bill, carried by Assemblyman Reginald Jones-Sawyer, D-Los Angeles, and backed by a powerful coalition of public employee unions, is supposedly aimed at making counties more efficient and accountable. However, it's evident that its true motive is protecting unionized civil service jobs from private sector competition.

The bill, which has cleared the Assembly and is pending in the Senate, is being stoutly opposed by the California State Association of Counties as unwarranted state interference in local affairs.

However, the criticism is not confined to the counties themselves. The Senate Governance and Finance Committee's staff analysis declared: "AB 1250 erodes local officials' ability to manage local affairs, making it hard for them to preserve essential public services during tough financial times. Local elected officials are well-positioned to judge the merits of a service contract and can either negotiate better terms or reject a contract altogether."

That did not prevent committee approval on a party-line vote, however.

The more important criticism is coming from Gov. Brown's Department of Finance, which is opposed because "it applies a one-size-fits-all approach to contracting for personal services that could severely restrict the ability of counties to provide services in an efficient manner (and) makes sweeping change…when the extent of the problem is unknown."

That pretty much parrots what Brown and other California politicians have been saying about sweeping, one-size-fits-all decrees from the Trump White House and the Republican Congress.

Do as we say, not as we do?

Sitting – it's not a healthy choice

By Mary Duenwald, Bloomberg

Many health experts think the most dangerous thing most of us do every day is sit down. Like smoking, they believe,

prolonged sitting is deleterious, and not something that can be balanced out by vigorous exercise when sitting time is done.

Dozens of studies have drawn connections between sitting too long and diabetes, hypertension, some forms of cancer (especially in women), anxiety and a generally greater probability of early death. There's also the risk of a weak, flat backside.

It's no wonder then that more and more people are raising their computer monitors to work standing up. But anyone with a dusty big blue ball in the attic knows that unconventional desk trends don't necessarily last.

Read the whole story

Nevada officers going after drunken drivers

Now through Sept. 15 Douglas County sheriff's deputies and Nevada Highway Patrol officers are increasing efforts to keep impaired drivers and riders of the streets.

Officers say impaired driving is consistently the most common cause of motor vehicle crashes resulting in injuries and deaths in Nevada. There is someone injured in a car accident every two minutes, and someone killed every 53 minutes in the United States involving an impaired driver.

Drivers and riders are encouraged to know the law for blood alcohol levels and abide by the following guidelines:

- Designate a sober driver before drinking.

- Use a ride service, call a sober friend, family member or use public transportation.
- Call 911 if a suspected drunken driver is seen on the road.
- Take the keys, hide the keys or assist in making other arrangements for someone who is about to drive who is impaired.
- Call law enforcement, it is better for the impaired driver to be arrested than to have them involved in an accident.

Billions of dead trees force fire crews to shift tactics

By Associated Press

Vast stands of dead timber in the Western U.S. have forced firefighters to shift tactics, trying to stay out of the shadow of lifeless, unstable trees that could come crashing down with deadly force.

About 6.3 billion dead trees are still standing in 11 Western states, up from 5.8 billion five years ago, according to U.S. Forest Service statistics compiled for the *Associated Press.*

Since 2010, a massive infestation of beetles has been the leading cause of tree mortality in the West and now accounts for about 20 percent of the standing dead trees, the Forest Service says. The rest were killed by drought, disease, fire or other causes.

Read the whole story