

Simple step to improve lawn's health and vigor

By Melinda Myers

Do just one thing this fall and you can improve the health and vigor of your lawn. Fall fertilization helps lawns recover from the stresses of summer and provides needed nutrients to grow deeper roots and a denser stand of grass. And that means fewer weeds and a healthier lawn that's more resistant to drought, insects and diseases.

Fertilize around Labor Day as the temperatures begin to cool and lawns start spreading outward instead of growing upward. Continue to leave clippings on the lawn. They return nutrients, moisture and organic matter to the soil. Consider it free fertilizer applied every time you mow the lawn.

One fall application will give low maintenance lawns the nutrient boost they need. You'll have a healthier lawn with minimal care.



Fall lawn fertilization is the first step in growing a healthy lawn next year.

Photo/Provided

Increase the quality and improve the lawn's ability to

withstand and recover from wear and tear with a second application. Apply fertilizer in late fall between Halloween and Thanksgiving, but before the ground freezes. Those growing warm season grasses should make the last application in early October at least one month prior to the first killing frost.

No need to purchase a winterizing fertilizer. Most soils have high to excessive levels of phosphorous and potassium. Have a soil test first if you suspect your lawn is deficient in these nutrients. You'll save money and harm to the environment by using the right product.

Consider using a slow release, organic nitrogen fertilizer that helps improve the soil, while providing needed nutrients. Research discovered that as the microorganisms work on releasing the nutrients from its pellets they also make some of the phosphorous, which promotes root development, as well as potassium, which promotes hardness and disease resistance, that is bound to the soil available to the grass plants.

Continue to mow high as long as the grass continues to grow. You can gradually reduce the mowing height for winter if desired.

Once you see the improvement in your lawn, you may be inspired to adopt the holiday fertilization schedule. Adding one or two additional fertilizer applications can greatly increase your lawn's health, vigor, wear resistance and ability to tolerate drought and pests.

Those growing warm season grasses can begin fertilizing around Easter once the grass begins growing. Make additional applications around Memorial Day and the recommended fall date. Those growing cool season grasses should wait until Memorial Day to start fertilizing in addition to the two fall applications. Add a mid-summer application of slow release fertilizer for irrigated lawns.

Fall fertilization is the first step in growing a healthy lawn next year. Do this one thing this fall and you will decrease your lawn care challenges and workload next year.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written more than 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening" and the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook." She hosts the Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio segments.

Eclipse diffuses sun's light, drops temp in Tahoe



The eclipse on the sidewalk at Cave Rock as seen through a tree. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

By Kathryn Reed

While the sky didn't go dark in Lake Tahoe during the eclipse Monday, the light was muted and the temperature definitely dropped.

"The main thing out here is everyone noticed the temperature dropped," Bob Nielsen of South Lake Tahoe said while at Cove East.

According to the National Weather Service in Reno, the

temperature in South Lake Tahoe dropped 4 degrees when the moon passed in front of the sun on the morning of Aug. 21.



Jessica Randall of South Lake watches the eclipse Aug. 21. Photo/Kathryn Reed

In South Lake Tahoe, the eclipse started at 9:04am, with the peak (84 percent) at 10:19am, and it was over by 11:42am.

Arless Lopez-Taylor, 7, liked watching it through his glasses, seeing how the shape of the sun kept changing. He is a bit of an astronomy nut, even likes to read astronomy news.

He was sitting on a log at Cove East, with Lake Tahoe behind him as he looked east with his dad, Nick Taylor, beside him.

Jessica Randall of South Lake Tahoe had her spot along the

Upper Truckee River staked out just off Venice Drive. Being in her late 20s she knows it could be a few decades before another eclipse is so prominent where she lives. She'll have stories about this one to tell when the next one comes along.



Players at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club call a timeout to watch the eclipse. Photo/Dave Nostrant

It's not that solar eclipses are rare. At least two occur each year. It's just that most occur where people can't see them – like over some body of water.

This one, though, had a large swath of the United States in its path – from the Northwest to South Carolina, and an arc in between, able to experience the total eclipse. The total eclipse only encompassed an area 70 miles wide.

Even though the sun's diameter is 400 times larger than the

moon's, the sun is 400 times farther from Earth than the moon. This is why the two orbs look the same size, and the eclipse is possible.

For Darla Sadler of Bend, Ore., it was her dad who got her to travel to Prairie City, Ore., for today's event. It was Jim Sadler of Concord who said the partial eclipse in the Bay Area wasn't enough, nor was the 99 percent in Bend. He wanted the full deal. This bucket list item was "spectacular" for him.

"I didn't really know what to expect, but it was so worth seeing. If there is another in my lifetime, I will definitely go see it," Darla Sadler told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Cynthia Gorney uses a homemade device to view the eclipse.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Many who were out at Cove East didn't have the special viewing glasses. It was a bit amazing when offered to look through a pair many said no thanks. Once convinced, the facial

expressions and words of wonder were evidence they were seeing something special.

For Cynthia Gorney and Bill Sokol of Oakland they hurriedly put together a cereal box viewing contraption this morning. With foil attracting the sun and a hole in the box it was possible to see the eclipse reflected at the bottom of the box.

“I felt compelled to see the eclipse. And it’s the last day of our vacation. It’s a giant solar celebration of the wonderful three weeks we’ve had in Tahoe,” Gorney told *Lake Tahoe News*.

South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Brian Uhler had one of the more unusual vantage points for the event. He was flying in his plane at 14,000 feet in Central Oregon near Mount Jefferson.

“I wasn’t expecting it to be like it was. As soon as the direct light from the sun was covered by the moon it instantly illuminated this bluish-white coronal light you usually don’t see,” Uhler told *Lake Tahoe News*. He was flying his plane with his brother, Mark, as the passenger.

Uhler flew into Bend this morning, had breakfast and then went up to see the eclipse. He’s already back in Tahoe working.

Brewery event benefits Tahoe’s homeless

Homebrew for the Homeless is an annual fundraiser for Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless, the nonprofit organization that operates the South Lake Tahoe warm room.

The family-friendly event, presented in collaboration with

Hops Envy, features live music, a homebrew beer competition, a chili cook-off, and horseback rides and other activities for children. It will be Sept. 23 starting at 3:30pm at the DDRC (Leigh Wayne Miller's ranch) in Minden.

All proceeds from the event will be used to support Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless. During the winter, Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless provides overnight refuge from the elements.

General entry tickets are \$15 per person, which includes all activities and live music, as well as food and non-alcoholic beverages. Tickets for children under 12 are \$10, with children 2 and under free. Tickets for the poker run which includes homebrew tasting (open to those 21 and over) are \$35, including general entry. For more information and to purchase tickets, go **online**.

Adventure talk at Tahoe City sports shop

Alpenglow Sports, Tahoe City's 39-year-old mountain shop, is starting an in-house adventure presentation series coined the Tailgate Talks.

The shows are focused on adventure, travel and mountain exploration. The shows will take place at Alpenglow Sports on various weekday evenings throughout the fall. Each show is communal in nature, designed to provide a fun and inspiring outlet for the Lake Tahoe adventure community and benefits a local nonprofit.

The first installment will be Sept. 21 at 7pm with Bree Loewen, a thoughtful and elegant explorer of the hardships and

joys of search and rescue, risk and motherhood. Loewen will present stories and readings from her new book “Found: A Life in Mountain Rescue.”

Loewen’s first book, “Pickets and Dead Men,” was her account of the three seasons she spent as a climbing ranger on Mount Rainier.

The show begins at 7pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Call Alpenglow Sports at 530.583.6917 for further details.

Lightning causes minor fires in region

Afternoon thunderstorms in the region are keeping firefighters busy because of the lightning strikes.

On Aug. 19 multiple fires reported.

The Alpine View was off of Jacks Valley. It was out 45 minutes after being reported at 5:42pm.

Ninety minutes later fire crews doused a fire near Grover Hot.

A transformer blew up, knocking power out for hundreds of valley residents.

Thunderstorms could be the norm most of this week. Hail may be part of the mix.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Quinten

Quinten is a 2 year old German shepherd mix who is very sweet. He was transferred to Tahoe from an overcrowded shelter to find his forever home. Please call the shelter for more details about this beautiful boy.

Quinten is neutered, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. He 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. For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online** or call the animal shelter. Vouchers are available there also. Bring \$25 and a copy of a photo ID and a local utility bill.

– Karen Kuentz

All income levels impacted by Tahoe housing crunch; moving a little east often the answer

Publisher's note: *This is one in a series of stories about affordable housing in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee region. All articles may be accessed via the home page under Special Projects, 2017 Affordable Housing.*

By Susan Wood

There's something extraordinary going on in the Lake Tahoe housing market when "The Guy from Tahoe" isn't.

Curtis Fong, who long has had a connection with Tahoe (hence the name), moved to Gardnerville 30 years ago – marking a trend that hasn't slowed down. In the last few decades, he's had company. Some former Tahoe residents have moved as far away as Dayton to make the dollar go further, among other reasons.

"Bottom line, it was a better value," Fong said of his family's move to the Ranchos. The popular Carson Valley neighborhood was also a better place to raise children, he added.



“And when I look back 30 years ago in the days of ‘Deep Snow,’ there were drugs all over town, and most kids were latchkey kids,” Fong said of the 1989 undercover law enforcement operation that resulted in the arrest and conviction of then South Lake Tahoe Mayor Terry

Trupp.

In 1987, the average price for a home in Tahoe was about \$140,000. At the time, a three-bedroom on one-third of an acre in Carson Valley was \$75,000. Thirteen years ago, the appraised value was \$200,000 for that same property. And through the last decade, the median for a comparable property in Lake Tahoe has still dwarfed the price in comparison to its high desert neighbor. The median in South Lake Tahoe runs \$404,200. In Gardnerville, it’s \$330,700 at \$213 per square foot, while the Ranchos is a little higher at \$233.

Granted, moving outside of a tourism hotbed, especially ski towns, is not a new phenomenon to the housing market. In Mammoth, workers live in Bishop. Vail employees commute in from the far reaches of Eagle County.

Fong, who is better known as an activity-based tourism guru and icon, believes he made the right choice for financial and quality of life reasons to “go off the hill,” as it’s called.

He empathizes with those seeking a home to buy at the lake or even to rent, with the latter climbing in price but falling in inventory.

“I feel for those people out there looking for a place to live,” he said.

Where does he see the trend of Tahoe going culturally?

“It’s interesting with the **millennials**. I kind of see a shift to young professionals moving in, but I guess time will tell,” Fong said of the age group 18-36.

His kids, Matthew and Erin, are now in their 30s as well, and he still spends a lot of work and play time in Tahoe. He even owns office space at the lake.



Living in the Carson Valley allows Bob and Tita Anderson to enjoy things they couldn’t at the lake – like having a prolific garden. Photo/Susan Wood

In good company

Fong is not alone in keeping limited ties with Lake Tahoe while living east of it. Some made the exodus decades ago like Fong. Others just ventured down recently. Either way, it’s a continuing trend that is worth noting.

South Lake Tahoe accountant Weldon Wulstein moved to Carson Valley four years ago. He lived in Tahoe Paradise neighboring Meyers five years ago, but the family needed space and the right zoning. His daughter was into horses.

They moved onto Foothill Road south of Genoa where Wulstein said the family likes “the quiet nature” of the community.

“It’s only 15 to 20 minutes away (from the Tahoe region), but it’s a completely different world,” he said. “And prices are rising down here too, but not as fast as the lake.

“It’s interesting to straddle two communities. You can’t be as spontaneous,” he said.

He also thought about moving his South Lake Tahoe offices to the Carson Valley, but decided against the idea.

“It’s too late to start over,” he told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Wulstein runs into people he knows from Tahoe in stores in Carson Valley.

“I think more and more people are moving here because of the affordability factor,” he said.

Just down the road from Wulstein are Bob and Tita Anderson, a couple who moved to the Carson Valley with similar circumstances after being at the lake 36 years.

The Andersons, who also have horses, sought a place three years ago that was ideal for their retirement – one that provided good bang for the buck while, like Wulstein, they kept their company operating in South Lake Tahoe. One difference from Wulstein – the Andersons added a satellite office in Gardnerville to run two sites. The financial endeavor tripled their business market.

Through the years, the Andersons have felt the pain from their employees seeking housing in Tahoe, with rentals averaging

between \$1,500 to \$1,600 a month in some locales.

"The biggest factor is the inventory is so low," he said, echoing what's become a well-known trend in a region thought of as "poverty with a view." There's a price to have a piece of paradise.

"Quite simply, Tahoe is a great place for young people to have fun. We don't need as much excitement," Bob Anderson told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Nonetheless, the couple has no regrets about their life path but emphasize how paradise has taken on a different meaning.

For one thing, they get to look straight up the Sierra at the snow when it dumps at Lake Tahoe. Their lower elevation allows them to tend to a prolific garden full of beets, zucchini, lettuce, squash and other lush produce. Their horses have plenty of room out the gorgeous back yard to roam when they're not seeking cookies by the fence. They've quasi adopted stray ducks that follow Bob Anderson around and stroll up to the relaxing deck that resembles a sanctuary. And the chickens are tame, happy and productive with eggs.

In other words, their home could be the setting of a tourism commercial for the good life in the West.

"We loved our years we lived up there, but we haven't heard of too many people going back," he said.



Rich Heffelfinger is able to provide more for his boys by living in Dayton. Photo/Susan Wood

Seeing the movement every day

Even the Sierra Nevada region's real estate agents have experienced the migration – some personally and professionally.

A 37-year real estate agent, Jim Valentine of Re/Max came from the lake but now lives and works in the Carson Valley.

He's seen the exodus up close and personal.

"A lot of people started coming down. The migration started in the '80s. When things were getting pricey, the Gardnerville Ranchos were built," Valentine said.

At first, it seemed the middle class wanted simple affordability, but then things changed in recent years.

"What we're seeing now coming off the hill is more high-end people," Valentine said. These residents are seeking a certain lifestyle, space and quiet time like the Wulsteins and Andersons. And like Fong, Valentine cites parents looking for a place for their children to thrive.

"People are looking to escape California," he said.

And even though the topsy-turvy real estate market took a dive in 2009 to coincide with the recession, the rebound has allowed many homeowners to get the equity back in their properties.

"It was a bucket of tears at that time," Valentine said of the industry. "But now we're seeing levels we saw in 2003 and 2004, with the economy getting stronger."

Valentine expects to see a huge growth spurt with major, innovative corporations such as Tesla and Apple moving into Northern Nevada.

"Talk about a tremendous amount of employees coming here in the next few years," he said. The influx will drive the commercial market along with it, he anticipates.

"We'll have more people with more demand for more things," Valentine told *Lake Tahoe News*.

That same drive for affordable housing in the last 30 years will drive companies to supplement the need of an expanding workforce.

Take Rich Heffelfinger. The longtime Harrah's Lake Tahoe concierge manager describes his life at the lake like the toast of the town.

He now works in a hardware store in Dayton where he lives with his family with different priorities. Now it's all about spending quality time with his children and watching the sunset in the high desert.

Still, he reflects on those 11 years in Tahoe with fondness as a more charged, glamorous environment of perks and recognition. However, it was a tough road from professional success to personal success for the man who started his hospitality career as the “Voice of the M.S. Dixie” at age 18.

“I thought Tahoe was my home. I moved to Tahoe (in 1996) with the intention of setting up roots. I grew up in the Washington (D.C.) suburbs, so I know about setting up roots,” he said. “I found it quite unaffordable to live here (in Tahoe).”

Being in his 20s early on, buying a home wasn’t on his radar in 1997. He rented a cabin for \$400 a month.

“I wish I would have been in the mindset, but I didn’t feel like it at that stage in my life,” Heffelfinger told *Lake Tahoe News*. Then, there’s the perplexing challenge of getting the capital together.

More than four years ago, Heffelfinger rented a duplex for \$1,800 a month in the meadow behind Lakeside Casino. His mother-in-law lived downstairs.

He wanted more for his money, so he moved from Tahoe to the Carson Valley on a lease option, but that deal fell through.

“I didn’t mind the commute (to Harrah’s), and I was trying to follow a budget,” he said.

A year ago, he ended up in Dayton with his three boys and two dogs. It backs up to open space in Storey County where the wild horses often make appearances outside their \$1,000 a month rental house.

In the meantime, Carson Valley rentals have gone up alongside Lake Tahoe’s. He was looking at rentals for \$1,800 a month before deciding to migrate farther east.

It’s definitely a different lifestyle.

"I've learned the simple things – to appreciate nature, solitude and good friends," he said.

The commute to Harrah's was unfeasible from Dayton. He ended up getting laid off within the last year anyway. He took the downtime as a way of spending quality time with his boys.

"If there was a winter to be laid off, it was this last one," Heffelfinger said. Staying put proved safer than struggling with an hour and a half commute under normal weather conditions.

"I'm learning to like Dayton, and we're learning to live with less," he said. The family eats in most of the time as a healthier and less expensive alternative to flitting around restaurants most nights in Tahoe.

The 38-year-old man is saving to buy a home and is "grateful for what we have," he said of his change of heart.

"In Tahoe, it was tough trying to keep up with the Joneses. I felt like I had to be 'on' in tourism concierge. I love living the simpler life," he said.



The apartment complex Randy Valiente lives in would be demolished if the loop road goes through. Photo/Susan Wood

Life loops around

Randy Valiente could be facing a similar life choice if the loop road project comes to fruition like the Tahoe Transportation District plans.

The project, which is undergoing an environmental review, calls for Highway 50 to be diverted through the Stateline area from Pioneer Trail around the 7-Eleven convenience store, connect with Montreal Road in front of the Van Sickle Bi-state Park and hook up with Lake Parkway as it weaves back to its main channel on the east side of MontBleu.

The controversial proposal is intended to make the casino corridor into a pedestrian hub. But there's more to it than that.

Part of the deal calls for a denser replacement of units to make up for the modest, to-be-demolished checkerboard houses, cabins and apartments now located on those "shortcut" streets such as Moss, Fern, Chonokis and Primrose avenues. In an ambitious government maneuver, a land swap is required to move the highway to become city property. The California Department of Transportation would take over the new highway and put greenbelts alongside it.

Valiente's apartment at 3734 Primrose is right in the path – within a block east of Moss Avenue, straight up from the 7-Eleven.

The food and beverage worker now walks to his job at Harrah's and wonders what will happen if the project goes through in the coming years.

The Stateline renter shared that he had no knowledge of the project since the landlord has not discussed the subject with him.

He is open to suggestions in moving from his two-bedroom

apartment he rents for \$850 a month.

“For us, if they give us a place to stay, then fine. That’s a problem living around Tahoe. It’s quite hard,” he told *Lake Tahoe News*, while sitting outside his place.

Motorists whizzed by on this popular shortcut used to circumvent traffic backups on Highway 50 in the casino corridor.

That’s precisely what Tahoe Transportation District Director Carl Hasty expects to hear and wants to answer.

“Housing is important. That’s how I look at it. It doesn’t solve all our housing issues, but it takes care of much of it,” Hasty told *Lake Tahoe News* during a stroll through the affected area. “This is a way of getting density housing in.”

The plan is for 76 residential units to be built, with “no net loss” of housing. Still, displacement is a hard sell anytime residents are relocated in the name of what proponents call progress. And with Hasty’s long planning tenure in Tahoe including as a high-ranking authority at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, he may know better than anyone.

A relocation assistance analysis study was conducted in respect to the loop road.

“Acquisition and relocation are the most expensive part of the process,” he said. Fair market value will be the order of the day.

But of course it comes with the territory as South Lake Tahoe knows. Redevelopment in Stateline was never easy but turned out to be a financial boon in tax dollars if one forgives a few hiccups along the way associated with albatross amenities such as the parking garage at Heavenly Village.

But what’s the alternative to moving ahead?

“There are multiple reasons (for) and benefits to this. If there’s no project, it’s a lost opportunity,” Hasty told *Lake Tahoe News*. “It would accelerate the city’s local area plan objective.”

The city has special districts at Ski Run Boulevard, the Y referred to as Tahoe Valley, and Harrison Avenue.

On one recent summer morning, Hasty paused a long time at the corner of Moss and Pioneer to imagine the prospects of what could be developed at an open lot there.

“The question becomes what happens here. This is the gateway. There are endless creative opportunities,” he said, while pondering the future. “It’s time to build for the next 75 years.”

Opinion: Summit to shine light on Tahoe’s challenges

By Dianne Feinstein and Joanne Marchetta

Twenty-one years ago, President Bill Clinton came to Lake Tahoe to announce a major environmental restoration effort. That first Lake Tahoe Summit launched an unprecedented public-private partnership that has since invested more than \$2 billion to save the lake.

Over two decades, through the environmental improvement program, the Tahoe partnership has created one of the nation’s most ambitious and successful environmental restoration and conservation programs. In fact, according to Lake Tahoe scientists, had this partnership not formed, lake clarity

could be nearly 20 feet worse than it is today.

While the lake and its forests are healthier now from this work, we must double-down on our effort in the face of threats from climate change.

Earlier this month, the Tahoe Environmental Research Center at UC Davis released its annual report on the state of Lake Tahoe. The report is a clarion call-to-action for all who love this lake.

While the report makes it clear our investments are having a positive effect, climate change is having a profound impact on the Lake Tahoe Basin. Climate change is also making the existing challenges in the Tahoe basin harder to address.

One of the most notable effects of climate change is the rising temperature of the lake. Surface temperatures are rising at half a degree each year—14 times faster than the historical average. We know that rising temperatures make it easier for algae to grow.

Partners around Tahoe are reducing stormwater pollution that harms lake clarity and helps fuel algae growth. Over the last five years, we have reduced clarity-harming fine sediment pollution by 12 percent, and reduced phosphorus and nitrogen pollution, nutrients that spur algae growth, by 8.5 percent and 6 percent, respectively.

That's more than 268,500 pounds of fine sediment that is no longer washing into the lake each year. This important work to protect and restore Lake Tahoe's clarity and keep Tahoe blue must not only continue, it must accelerate to protect the lake's water quality from climate change.

The problems aren't only in the water. Lake Tahoe is experiencing longer summer seasons, affecting the delicate ecosystems around the lake. The hot summer season has increased by 26 days over the last 50 years.

Longer, hotter summers and more severe droughts are killing trees around the lake at an alarming rate. The U.S. Forest Service estimates there are 136,000 dead trees in the Tahoe basin. While we've made progress thinning forests and removing the overabundance of fuel for forest fires, drought and climate change continue to stress Tahoe's forests. We must do more to improve the health and resilience of Tahoe's forests and prepare our communities for wildfire.

Climate change is happening now, and we must act.

Facing a seemingly impossible challenge 20 years ago, this community came together to save the lake. We believe we can again.

Of course, addressing climate change will require a global effort. But with all our success over the last two decades, the world already looks to Lake Tahoe as proof that environmental change for the better is possible. This is our opportunity to continue to lead on an international stage.

We must keep working together to solve the problems of climate change—not just globally but right here in Lake Tahoe. We must strike at the heart of the issues detrimental to the lake.

This is going to require continued and increased focus on forest management and wildfire preparedness, the control—if not eradication—of invasive species, and finding more ways of reducing the amount of nutrients flowing into the lake.

Transportation is another key issue we must address. Car emissions threaten air and water quality. We can reduce that traffic by expanding public transportation and biking options.

Just like two decades ago, the federal government is ready to help with those efforts. Last year, we passed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which reauthorizes \$415 million of federal funding over the next seven years to fund programs vital to the lake's health.

This is an important commitment, but only one piece of the puzzle. Tomorrow, we will hold the 21st Lake Tahoe Summit at the Tallac Historic Site on the South Shore. All four senators from California and Nevada will be joined by supporters of the lake from the public and private sector, including representatives from the federal, state and local levels of government. Our keynote address will be delivered by former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, who served under Clinton during the first summit.

The summit will be a chance to celebrate all we've accomplished to restore Lake Tahoe. It will also be a chance for the public-private partnership formed 20 years ago to re-commit its efforts towards solving the problems created by climate change.

Tahoe is ready to meet this new challenge. We hope you will join us.

Dianne Feinstein is a Democratic senator from California and Joanne Marchetta is executive director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Instagram posts may hold clues to mental health

By Niraj Chokshi, New York Times

The photos you share online speak volumes. They can serve as a form of self-expression or a record of travel. They can reflect your style and your quirks. But they might convey even more than you realize: The photos you share may hold clues to your mental health, new research suggests.

From the colors and faces in their photos to the enhancements they make before posting them, Instagram users with a history of depression seem to present the world differently from their peers, according to the study, published this month in the journal EPJ Data Science.

“People in our sample who were depressed tended to post photos that, on a pixel-by-pixel basis, were bluer, darker and grayer on average than healthy people,” said Andrew Reece, a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard University and co-author of the study with Christopher Danforth, a professor at the University of Vermont.

Read the whole story

Gold miner finds diamond in Sierra foothills

By Ed Fletcher, Sacramento Bee

A California woman says she found a 1½ carat diamond while mining gold near the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Foresthill.

“I was like ‘oh my god I found a diamond,’ ” said Jillian Kelly.

Kelly, 49, left her Silicon Valley career to take up mining 10 years ago and wrote ‘The Miracle Miner: My Life as a Female Gold Miner.’ The uncut semi-clear pebble-sized stone is about width of a dainty pinky finger.

Read the whole story