

Half marathon to cause delays on Hwy. 50

On June 16 participants in the Rock Tahoe Half Marathon will be running from Spooner Summit to the Hard Rock in Stateline.

In order to keep the runners safe, the lakeside lane of westbound Highway 50 will be closed from the top of Spooner Summit to the bike trail at Round Hill Pines. Additionally, vehicle traffic at Logan Creek will be intermittently stopped, allowing one-way traffic through the slide area.

The lane closure will be in effect from 6-11am, with significant delays at Logan Creek from 7:30-9am.

Kingsbury Grade is highly recommended as the preferred route for traffic between Carson City and South Lake Tahoe during these hours. Additionally, access into or out of the peripheral streets and driveways may be prolonged at times.

Tahoe deputies help find missing UC Davis research robot

By Michael McGough, Sacramento Bee

Deputies with a Lake Tahoe patrol crew helped recover a malfunctioning robot deployed by UC Davis researchers to study climate change, Placer County Sheriff's Office reported Sunday on Facebook.

And it's a good thing they picked it up before someone else did, because the yellow-and-blue device bears a fairly strong resemblance to a torpedo.

The autonomous underwater vehicle, nicknamed a "glider," was studying the lake's relationship with the area's winds and temperatures as part of a mission for the university's Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The El Dorado County Fair is June 14-17 in Placerville.
 - The 15th annual Downtown Truckee Wine Walk & Shop is Oct. 6 from noon-4pm. This year's beneficiaries are Truckee Community Theater and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County and North Lake Tahoe. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$55 at the door. Additional information and tickets are available **online**.
 - Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association will be using radar this season to target boaters not abiding by the 3mph, no wake rule.
 - Here are the **Sierra** and **El Dorado-Tahoe** roadwork schedules from Caltrans for the week.
 - There is no cost to fish in Nevada on June 9.
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Vail Resorts to run Lakeland Village condos in SLT

By Kathryn Reed

Vail Resorts is about to have a greater presence in South Lake Tahoe as the company takes over the management and day-to-day operations of Lakeland Village on Oct. 1.

The lakefront condo development has been run by Aqua Aston Hospitality for the last nine years.

“Vail is a top notch company. It’s hard to compete with them. Their niche is mountain resort environments,” Ron Armijo, president of Lakeland Village home owners association board of directors, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “(Vail) is going to be part of the Lake Tahoe fabric for a long time. We want to be part of that. We meld very well with the goals and values that Vail has to offer.”

What all Vail will bring to the table has not been disclosed. What Armijo likes, though, is the potential for ski deals and summer adventures at Heavenly-Kirkwood-Northstar, all Vail properties, for Lakeland guests. He also cited the 67 mountain weddings at Heavenly last year, adding, “They need a place to put all those people.”



And while it was the recommendation of Lakeland’s Rental Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) to go with Vail as well, not all of the homeowners are happy with the decision.

Already gone is Jerry Bindel, who was general manager of the

property for 19 years. He resigned earlier this year after the board voted to go with Vail. He is now with Forest Suites.

"We always worried we would lose Jerry. He knows everything about all parts of Lakeland," Sheila Starceovich told *LTN*. She and husband Howie Friedman have lived full time at the property since 2002.

"Almost all the long-term employees are leaving," Friedman said. "Housekeeping is down to a skeletal crew."

Of the 260 units on the property that fronts Highway 50, about 165 are rented through Aston, another 30 or so use a different rental firm or do it themselves, and the rest are owner-occupied or second homes.

Aston is looking to have an off-site office where it would continue to manage condos for people who don't want to leave their company. No one from Aston's corporate headquarters in Hawaii returned calls. People on property would not talk on the record with *LTN*.

"My position is to maintain the strength of Lakeland Village in the community. To break it apart into multiple companies doesn't make a lot of sense, but it's up to the owners," Armijo said. "There is a lot to consider. It's not just the numbers; it's the amenities, the way we want the property to be managed and operated."

The management company is responsible for staffing the front desk and housekeeping, and maintaining the pools, hot tubs, and grounds.

Issues with Aston had more to do with people at corporate than with local staff. One issue was over site-wide internet, something the management company wouldn't pay for or install. An eleventh-hour addendum to Aston's offer once they go wind Vail was the preferred company came with a deal to install internet.

"It seemed to us that they were charging for things that either didn't need to be done or that they were outright not doing – like the annual deep cleaning which costs a lot, but the units didn't look that much cleaner," Virginia Glenn told *Lake Tahoe News* of Aston. She and husband Norm have had rentals at Lakeland for a handful of years and he's on the RMAC.

The entire management agreement process has not been smooth. It started more than a year ago with Aston and Vail the only to apply. According to the board president, bids go out every three years, with this being the first time there was competition.

Since then multiple emails and letters have been exchanged between owners, the board, board committee, and Aston – with some of them described as "nasty."

Still, the majority is happy to have Aston gone, which is why the company was voted out. Even so, it was not a unanimous vote of the board to hire Vail.

Vail entered the local lodging market in 2010 when it bought Accommodation Station, which at the time was the third largest property management company on the South Shore. It was since been renamed Lake Tahoe Lodging Company. Last year Vail took over the property management of Zalanta, the condos across from Heavenly Village.

Vail was not forthcoming with how things will work at Lakeland. Employees and owners not on the board said the same thing about Vail, adding that workers have been told they will have to reapply for their jobs and that many of the long-time staff fear their salaries will be substantially reduced even if they have a job.

Kevin Cooper who runs the PR department locally for Vail Resorts merely told *LTN*, "Our teams are working closely with the Lakeland Village team, and we look forward to a smooth

transition of operational responsibilities.”

Lesli Carlson, manager for corporate communications for Vail, also didn’t answer *Lake Tahoe News*’ questions and responded with equal amount of fluff.

Here are *LTN*’s unanswered questions for Vail Resorts:

- *Is it true Lake Tahoe Lodging Company will be running things?*
 - *Will you bring the entire operation to Lakeland, keep it off-site or have two locations?*
 - *Do you know how many units you will be operating at Lakeland? How many units do you have through LTLC?*
 - *I understand Vail operates under a three-tiered level, renting out “gold” properties first. True? Can you explain how this works?*
 - *Is there a certain criteria to be listed with Vail or can any Lakeland unit be in the rental mix?*
 - *Will Vail keep the front desk?*
 - *Will Vail keep the employees? Bring in new people? Do people have to reapply for their jobs? Will wages/benefits stay the same? How many employees will you have at Lakeland? Will you bring in a general manager?*
 - *Why was Vail interested in running this lodging property?*
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Opinion: Black nurses forced to care for German POWs

By Alexis Clark

On the summer afternoon in 1944 that 23-year-old Elinor Powell walked into the Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Phoenix, it never occurred to her that she would be refused service. She was, after all, an officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, serving her country during wartime, and she had grown up in a predominantly white, upwardly mobile Boston suburb that didn't subject her family to discrimination.

But the waiter who turned Elinor away wasn't moved by her patriotism. All he saw was her brown skin. It probably never occurred to him that the woman in uniform was from a family that served its country, as Elinor's father had in the First World War, as well as another relative who had been part of the Union Army during the Civil War. The only thing that counted at that moment—and in that place, where Jim Crow laws remained in force—was the waiter's perception of a black army nurse as not standing on equal footing with his white customers.

Infuriated and humiliated, Elinor left Woolworth's and returned to POW Camp Florence, in the Arizona desert. She was stationed there to look after German prisoners of war, who had been captured in Europe and Northern Africa and then sent across the Atlantic Ocean, for detainment in the United States during World War II.

Elinor, like many other black nurses in the Army Nurse Corps, was tasked with caring for German POWs—men who represented Hitler's racist regime of white supremacy. Though their presence is rarely discussed in American history, from 1942 to 1946, there were 371,683 German POWs scattered across the

country in more than 600 camps. Some POWs remained until 1948.

And these POWs were kept busy. Prisoners of war, under rules set by the Geneva Convention, could be made to work for the detaining power. And, with millions of American men away serving in the military, there was a significant labor shortage in the United States. Farms, plants, canneries and other industries needed workers.

For black nurses, the assignment to take care of German POWs—to tend to Nazis—was deeply unwelcome. To the African American women who had endured the arduous process of being admitted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, this assignment felt like a betrayal. They volunteered to serve to help wounded American soldiers, not the enemy.

Long before World War II, black nurses had been struggling to serve their country. After the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, black nurses tried to enroll in the Red Cross, which was then the procurement agency for the Army Nurse Corps. The Red Cross rejected them because they didn't have the required membership in the American Nurses Association (ANA), which didn't allow blacks to join at the time. A few black nurses eventually served in the First World War, but not because they were finally admitted into the Army Nurse Corps. The 1918 flu epidemic wiped out so many thousands of people that a handful of black nurses were called to assist.

More than two decades later, after Hitler invaded Poland, the United States began an aggressive war preparedness program, and the Army Nurse Corps expanded its recruiting process. Wanting to serve their country and receive a steady military income, thousands of black nurses filled out applications to enlist. They received the following letter:

"Your application to the Army Nurse Corps cannot be given favorable consideration as there are no provisions in Army

regulations for the appointment of colored nurses in the Corps.”

The rejection letter was a crushing blow, but also an honest appraisal of how the country regarded black nurses: They weren't valued as American citizens or seen as fit to wear a military uniform.

The National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, (NACGN)—an organization founded in 1908 for black registered nurses as an alternative to the ANA, which still hadn't extended its membership to black nurses—challenged the letter. And with political pressure from civil rights groups and the black press, 56 black nurses were finally admitted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1941. Some went to Fort Livingston in Louisiana and others to Fort Bragg, in North Carolina, both segregated bases.

When Elinor Powell entered the army in 1944, she completed her basic training an hour outside of Tucson, Ariz., at Fort Huachuca, which had become the largest military installation for black soldiers and nurses. The army had a strict quota for black nurses, and only 300 of them served in the entire Army Nurse Corps, which had 40,000 white nurses. It was evident the military didn't really want black women to serve at all, and they made this clear.

Elinor's cohort of newly trained Army nurses soon received shocking news: There had been too much fraternization between white nurses and German POWs at Camp Florence. So the Army was bringing in black nurses as replacements.

POW camps would become an ongoing assignment for the majority of African American nurses. The remainder were stationed at segregated bases with black soldiers, who mostly performed maintenance and menial jobs during the war, and understood what it meant to wear a U.S. military uniform and still be treated like a second-class citizen.

Life for a black army nurse at a POW camp could be lonely and isolated. The camps in the South and Southwest, in particular, strictly enforced Jim Crow. The list of complaints from black nurses included being routinely left out of officer meetings and social functions, and being forced to eat in segregated dining halls. The trips to nearby towns were also degrading because of establishments that either relegated blacks to subpar seating and service or barred them from entering altogether.

At the hospitals in the POW camps, black nurses weren't that fulfilled either. A great many of the prisoners were in good health, which had been a requirement to make the transatlantic journey in the first place, so the black nurses weren't utilized to full capacity. There were typical bedside nursing duties and occasional appendectomies performed, but rarely were there critical cases.

In some ways, from a social standpoint, the German POWs fared better than the black nurses. Local white residents, U.S. Army guards and officers were friendly toward them—a level of respect that black laborers, soldiers, and nurses did not experience with any regularity.

When German prisoners first arrived in the United States, many were shocked by the racial hierarchy entrenched in American culture. They saw the segregated bathrooms and restricted dining halls at train stations, and during their days-long journeys to their respective POW camps had black train attendants bringing them food and drinks and calling them "sir." It was clear that in the United States, there was an inherent expectation of subservience to whites, even to those from Hitler's army.

Once at camp, life for German POWs, for the most part, was comfortable. From the clean accommodations and regular meals, to the congeniality of Americans, some POWs were relieved to have been captured. And the interactions with black nurses

were largely civilized.

But there were occasions when black nurses found themselves humiliated by German POWs and not backed up by the U.S. Army.

At Camp Papago Park, outside of Phoenix, a German POW said he hated “niggers” in front of a black nurse. She reported the incident to the commanding officer, expecting a swift reprimand. The nurse later discovered the commanding officer didn’t think any punishment was necessary. She complained about the incident in a letter to the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses:

“That is the worst insult an army officer should ever have to take. I think it is insult enough to be here taking care of them when we volunteered to come into the army to nurse military personnel...All of this is making us very bitter.”

Meanwhile, even though black nurses were underutilized, there was an urgent need for more nurses to care for the returning American soldiers, wounded in battle. Nevertheless, white nurses were tasked to tend to Americans almost exclusively. Yes, thousands of white nurses also had POW camp assignments—there were very few black women in Army Nurse Corps. But if a black unit could replace a white one at a camp, the swap was made.

As the war entered its final year, the numbers of wounded men rose exponentially. President Franklin Roosevelt made the alarming announcement of legislation to establish a nursing draft in his State of the Union Address on Jan. 6, 1945. Radio announcements said the draft would be instituted unless 18,000 additional nurses volunteered.

At the time of the president’s address, there were 9,000 applications from black nurses hoping to enlist in the Army Nurse Corps. But those nurses didn’t count toward the goal, or dissuade FDR’s announcement—to the dismay of NACGN, the black press and civil rights organizations.

Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., the esteemed minister from Harlem, famously denounced the decision: "It is absolutely unbelievable that in times like these, when the world is going forward, that there are leaders in our American life who are going backward. It is further unbelievable that these leaders have become so blindly and unreasonably un-American that they have forced our wounded men to face the tragedy of death rather than allow trained nurses to aid because these nurses' skins happen to be of a different color."

The draft legislation stalled in the Senate and the conscription of nurses never occurred. But with morale among black army nurses reaching record lows, the NACGN approached first lady Eleanor Roosevelt for help, given her commitment to equal rights. And the meeting was a success.

In the final year of the war, black nurses were no longer assigned exclusively to POW camps. After a few months they were transferred to army hospitals for wounded American soldiers.

Elinor remained at POW Camp Florence for the duration of the war, and fell in love with a German prisoner, Frederick Albert. While fellow Americans humiliated her with segregation, a German, of all people, uplifted her. The two shunned the racist policies of Jim Crow and Nazism, seeking solace in a forbidden romance. They would spend their lives together in constant search of a community that accepted them, more than 20 years before laws banning interracial marriage were struck down in the 1967 Loving v. Virginia decision.

By war's end, only about 500 black nurses had served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during WWII, even though thousands had applied. Despite the discrimination they faced, black army nurses demonstrated a persistent will to be a part of the U.S. Army Nurse Corp and serve their country. Their efforts paid off when President Harry Truman issued an executive order to desegregate the entire military in 1948.

And by 1951, the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses dissolved into the American Nurses Association, which had extended its membership to all nurses regardless of race.

Alexis Clark is a freelance journalist and author of “Enemies in Love: A German POW, A Black Nurse, and an Unlikely Romance.”

Scientists trying to save beer from climate change

By AC Shilton, Outside

A warmer, drier future is coming for our hops. Luckily, these folks have developed a nice little workaround, thanks to a gene-editing tool that could help create a hop-free beer.

This shouldn't come as a surprise, but climate change is going to mess with some of our most beloved foods. Prolonged drought, hotter temperatures, and stronger storms will deliver punch after punch to farmers around the globe. In fact, we're already seeing the effects on some crops: a 2011 Stanford study found that corn yields around the world were down about 5 percent because of hotter temperatures fueled by climate change.

Before you shrug and say, “I can live without corn,” know this: Hops are one of the crops most likely to be affected.

Read the whole story

ZCTC to host husband-wife tournament



The Husband Wife Hard Court National Championships returns to ZCTC in September. Photo/Provided

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club for the second consecutive year will host the USTA Husband Wife Hard Court National Championships.

Teams from all over the country are expected to descend upon the South Shore for this hard court tournament.

The tournament will be Sept. 10-16.

This is one of four tournaments that is part of the Husband Wife Grand Slam Circuit. Each event is played at a different location and on a different surface: grass in Palm Springs, clay in Charlotte, N.C., and indoors in Denver. Champions receive a gold ball, finalists receive a silver ball, and the bronze ball is awarded to third place.

Any husband-wife duo may participate. There are four

divisions, three based on combined ages – 100, 120, 140 and then open. The combined age of the team must equal or exceed the age requirement by the end of the calendar year. No age requirement in the open division.

For more information or to sign up, go **online**.

Mental, emotional benefits to alone time in nature

By Brad Daniel, Andrew Bobilya and Ken Kalisc, The Conversation

Today Americans live in a world that thrives on being busy, productive and overscheduled. Further, they have developed the technological means to be constantly connected to others and to vast options for information and entertainment through social media. For many, smartphones demand their attention day and night with constant notifications.

As a result, naturally occurring periods of solitude and silence that were once commonplace have been squeezed out of their lives. Music, reality TV shows, YouTube, video games, tweeting and texting are displacing quiet and solitary spaces. Silence and solitude are increasingly viewed as “dead” or “unproductive” time, and being alone makes many Americans uncomfortable and anxious.

But while some equate solitude with loneliness, there is a big difference between being lonely and being alone. The latter is essential for mental health and effective leadership.

We study and teach outdoor education and related fields at

several colleges and organizations in North Carolina, through and with other scholars at 2nd Nature TREC, a training, research, education and consulting firm. We became interested in the broader implications of alone time after studying intentionally designed solitude experiences during wilderness programs, such as those run by Outward Bound. Our findings reveal that time alone in nature is beneficial for many participants in a variety of ways, and is something they wish they had more of in their daily life.

Reflection and challenge

We have conducted research for almost two decades on Outward Bound and undergraduate wilderness programs at Montreat College in North Carolina and Wheaton College in Illinois. For each program, we studied participants' experiences using multiple methods, including written surveys, focus group interviews, one-on-one interviews and field notes. In some cases, we asked subjects years later to look back and reflect on how the programs had affected them. Among other questions, our research looked at participant perceptions of the value of solo time outdoors.

Our studies showed that people who took part in these programs benefited both from the outdoor settings and from the experience of being alone. These findings build on previous research that has clearly demonstrated the value of spending time in nature.

Scholars in fields including wilderness therapy and environmental psychology have shown that time outdoors benefits our lives in many ways. It has a therapeutic effect, relieves stress and restores attention. Alone time in nature can have a calming effect on the mind because it occurs in beautiful, natural and inspirational settings.

Nature also provides challenges that spur individuals to creative problem-solving and increased self-confidence. For

example, some find that being alone in the outdoors, particularly at night, is a challenging situation. Mental, physical and emotional challenges in moderation encourage personal growth that is manifested in an increased comfort with one's self in the absence of others.

Being alone also can have great value. It can allow issues to surface that people spend energy holding at bay, and offer an opportunity to clarify thoughts, hopes, dreams and desires. It provides time and space for people to step back, evaluate their lives and learn from their experiences. Spending time this way prepares them to re-engage with their community relationships and full work schedules.

Putting it together: The outdoor solo

Participants in programmed wilderness expeditions often experience a component known as "Solo," a time of intentional solitude lasting approximately 24-72 hours. Extensive research has been conducted on solitude in the outdoors because many wilderness education programs have embraced the educational value of solitude and silence.

Solo often emerges as one of the most significant parts of wilderness programs, for a variety of reasons. Alone time creates a contrasting experience to normal living that enriches people mentally, physically and emotionally. As they examine themselves in relation to nature, others, and in some cases, God, people become more attuned to the important matters in their lives and in the world of which they are part.

Solitary reflection enhances recognition and appreciation of key personal relationships, encourages reorganization of life priorities, and increases appreciation for alone time, silence, and reflection. People learn lessons they want to transfer to their daily living, because they have had the opportunity to clarify, evaluate and redirect themselves by

setting goals for the future.

For some participants, time alone outdoors provides opportunity to consider the spiritual and/or religious dimension of life. Reflective time, especially in nature, often enhances spiritual awareness and makes people feel closer to God. Further, it encourages their increased faith and trust in God. This often occurs through providing ample opportunities for prayer, meditation, fasting, Scripture-reading, journaling and reflection time.

Retreating to lead

As Thomas Carlyle has written, “In (solitary) silence, great things fashion themselves together.” Whether these escapes are called alone time, solitude or Solo, it seems clear that humans experience many benefits when they retreat from the “rat race” to a place apart and gather their thoughts in quietness.

In order to live and lead effectively, it is important to be intentional about taking the time for solitary reflection. Otherwise, gaps in schedules will always fill up, and even people with the best intentions may never fully realize the life-giving value of being alone.

Brad Daniel is a professor of outdoor education at Montreat College; Andrew Bobilya is an associate professor and program director of parks and recreation management at Western Carolina University; and Ken Kalisch is an associate professor of outdoor education at Montreat College.

USFS looking for people to work in emergencies

The Eldorado National Forest is recruiting members of the community to form a network of people who are ready to work in a support role during wildfires and other emergencies.

These positions will be “on call” and provide intermittent employment for people with availability during summer. There are no physical fitness requirements except for the ability to work long hours under sometimes stressful conditions.

There will be a two-hour introductory presentation on June 8 from 5-7pm at the Eldorado National Forest Supervisors Office, 100 Forni Road, Placerville. Descriptions of the different support jobs and sign-up forms will be provided.

After completing the free training, community members will be paid to fulfill incident support positions. Support personnel travel and work up to 14- and possibly 21-day assignments, which can be out of state.

This training is provided free of charge. To reserve a seat, email eldoradonfjobs@gmail.com.

Letter: Perturbed with EDC's VHR actions

Publisher's note: *The following letter was sent to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and to Lake Tahoe News.*

Dear Board of Supervisors,



Jim Morris

We are becoming quite concerned that the county is continuing to promote the VHR controversy by scheduling ad hoc and Board of Supervisor meetings regarding future VHR regulations. The city of South Lake Tahoe drug out their VHR meetings for over two years and bragged about all the public gatherings they had. This only provoked the poor results from their actions as evidenced by negative national publicity received. You are already in the process of confirming extensive changes to the VHR ordinance. Please evaluate the results of your actions before making further changes to the current ordinance.

Sincerely,

Jim Morris, president Lake Tahoe Accommodations