

Fearing threat to Calif. emissions law, lawmakers plan a fight

By Sean Cockerham, McClatchy

The Trump administration could move at any time to revoke California's right to impose stricter auto emissions standards than the federal government does, and the state's senators are already mounting a fight.

Congressional sources are hearing conflicting information on whether and when the Environmental Protection Agency will revoke California's waiver.

Initially the EPA action appeared imminent, but now there is some uncertainty, in part because the action would set up a legal showdown with California that President Donald Trump could lose.

[Read the whole story](#)

Time to spring forward one hour

Before going to bed tonight, remember to turn those clocks forward one hour.

Daylight-saving time returns at 2am March 12.

While it means losing an hour of sleep, it will be lighter in

the evening.

This time change has been around since 1918. The original thinking is that it would save money and fuel.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Truckee Donner Public Utility District awarded Tahoe Truckee Unified School District \$44,049.08 in energy efficiency rebates to support school projects.

- South Lake Tahoe Library will be hosting an art program for ages 8-13 on March 25 from 2-3pm. Children will learn about a famous artist and create an artwork to keep. Space is limited. For additional information or to reserve a spot, call 530.573.3185.

- The El Dorado County Senior Nutrition Program is looking for volunteers for the home delivered meal program. Each volunteer generally works one day each week between 10:30am and noon. For more info, call 530.621.6160.

- Zephyr Cove Library will be having a St. Patrick's Day crafts and games program on March 17 from 3:30-4:30pm. Children will make shamrock and leprechaun themed crafts and choose their own magical leprechaun name.

- The third annual WinterWonderGrass Music and Brew Festival at Squaw Valley is March 31-April 2. Tickets are available **online**.

K's Kitchen: Perfect winter comfort food

By Kathryn Reed

When I didn't know how to fix something at my house that I thought by a certain age I should have known already, my friend Rene told me we learn things when we need to know them.

I channeled that sentiment of his when I called my mom last month to ask how to make mashed potatoes. Yes, I really had never made them before. I got a lesson in mashed vs. whipped potatoes, which potatoes work better, the suggestion to use salt in the water when boiling the potatoes, and using some of that water for mashing.

The potatoes are what take the longest with this recipe, so keep that in mind for timing. (Of course, there are always instant mashed potatoes out of a box or whatever they come in.) But you also want them hot, so really, they should be made last.

This is one of those perfect winter comfort foods.



Upside Down Shepherd's Pie

1 T olive oil

10 ounces ground beef or meat substitute

1 C onion, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ medium turnip, chopped

1 medium carrot, chopped

3 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped

5 garlic gloves, minced

2 C vegetable stock

2 T flour

1 C frozen green peas

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp black pepper

1 tsp kosher salt

3 C mashed potatoes

If using real meat, cook it in a little oil over medium heat.

Heat oil in pan, cook onion, turnip, carrot, rosemary and garlic until vegetables are tender. Add meat to the mix.

Blend stock and flour so there are no lumps. Add stock mixture to pan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and simmer 4 minutes or until thickened. Stir in peas, pepper, and salt.

Divide potatoes between four shallow bowls, then top evenly with veggie mixture.

Anderson takes second at X Games Norway

By USSA

HAFJELL, Norway – The American snowboard slopestyle women earned two of three podium spots at X Games Norway on Friday, with Jamie Anderson (Meyers) earning silver and Jules Marino (Westport, Conn.) taking bronze.

Anderson remains podium perfect in X Games slopestyle, earning her 13th medal in 13 starts over the last 11 years. The most decorated slopestyle athlete in X Games history (male or female), Anderson used her trademark smooth, stylish riding to earn her seventh-consecutive X Games silver medal.

Marino is also podium perfect at X Games, having earned three medals in three starts—all of them coming in 2017. The 19 year old earned bronze in big air at Aspen in January and topped the field in slopestyle at Aspen with a gold-medal performance.

Anderson and Marino, as well as Hailey Langland (San Clemente), who was sixth in slopestyle, will have a chance to earn another medal in big air tonight.

Anna Gasser of Austria continued her dominant season with a gold medal slopestyle win at Hafjell.

There were no American men in the slopestyle final. Red Gerard (Silverthorne, Colo.) just missed the cut, finishing ninth. Brock Crouch (Carlsbad) was 10th and Brandon Davis (Big Bear) was 14th.

Congress could dump wilderness bike ban

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Some of America's most pristine wild places could be opened to mountain biking under a proposal before Congress.

A bill by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Elk Grove, would lift a decades-old national ban on biking in federally designated wilderness areas.

It's similar to a bill that died in the previous session of Congress.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Wind power is an attack on rural America

By Robert Bryce, Los Angeles Times

Urban voters may like the idea of using more wind and solar energy, but the push for large-scale renewables is creating land-use conflicts in rural regions from Maryland to California and Ontario to Loch Ness.

Since 2015, more than 120 government entities in about two dozen states have moved to reject or restrict the land-devouring, subsidy-fueled sprawl of the wind industry.

The backlash continued last month when a judge in Maryland

ruled that the possible benefits of a proposed 17-turbine project did “not justify or offset subjecting the local community to the adverse impacts that will result from the wind project’s construction and operation.” The judge’s ruling probably spells the end of an eight-year battle that pitted local homeowners and Allegany County against the developer of the 60-megawatt project.

Read the whole story

Slide cuts access around Emerald Bay

As the snow shifts under the freeze-thaw climate of Lake Tahoe, slides are still possible. Such was the case on Highway 89 near Emerald Bay on Friday.

Caltrans has had to shut the highway for an indefinite amount of time to clear what is a 4 to 8-foot deep slide that cover part of both travel lanes.

This section of highway has been closed for the better part of the winter because of avalanches. Where the snow has been cleared it is obvious trees have come down with the snow.

For current road conditions, click on the state icons on the home page of *Lake Tahoe News*.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Traffic dodging apps prompt cities to game the algorithms

By Elizabeth Weise, USA Today

Call it planners versus algorithms.

Smartphone apps like Waze, a godsend for some road warriors because they shave minutes and even hours off their commutes with their creative detours off main highways, are causing headaches for city planners.

Using crosswalks, wider sidewalks and traffic lights, these transportation engineers aim to make neighborhood traffic slow, safe, and friendly for pedestrians – not send frustrated commuters barreling down side roads.

But the GPS-enabled computer programs often don't know that, or care. Their creators, such as Waze (owned by Google), are sympathetic, to a degree. They may give cities tips on how to effectively game the program so a neighborhood detour doesn't seem that appealing. But at the end of the day, the purpose of the bots is to make use of all available road space, main thoroughfare or country lane.

The upshot is mounting frustration from cities, which are trying to thwart computer systems that are savvier than ever.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Tahoe Regional Young Professionals is putting on town hall meeting about recreational marijuana on April 19 from 6-7:30pm at Tahoe Beach Retreat in South Lake Tahoe.
- Gov. Jerry Brown on March 7 asked President Trump to declare a major disaster for California – the third time he has done so this winter. It would cover El Dorado and Placer counties.
- In honor of National Poetry Month and National Library Week, the Douglas County Public Library will be hosting a poetry contest for middle schoolers, ages 11-14, and high schoolers, ages 14-18. Students can drop off their poems between April 1-10 at either the Minden or Zephyr Cove library. The theme of is Building Dreams. Poems may be written in rhyme or freestyle verse and should not exceed two pages.
- Unity at the Lake (1195 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe) will be showing “The Man Who Skied Mt. Everest” on March 23 at 7pm. No cost.
- The second annual OMG Fun Run will be June 4 starting at 10am at the bottom of Old Meyers Grade. The divisions are kids, costumes and competitive. Activities will be at the bottom of the grade. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for ages 12 and younger. For more info, go **online**.