

Ski Run working on being a destination for fun

By Kathryn Reed

Neighbors on Ski Run Boulevard have long endeavored to set themselves apart from other areas of South Lake Tahoe. It's a community within a community.

Nice, wide, paved, plowed and lighted sidewalks are inviting to walk on. Even the street itself is wider than many – giving it that feel of a true boulevard. A mix of commercial interests are interspersed up and down the street.

Depending on the time of year banners or plants hang from the light posts. The vibe is friendly and welcoming.

The holiday stroll on Sunday will be the latest event to bring people outside that one street to the neighborhood.

"We feel like the energy is starting to change in South Lake Tahoe, and a lot of young people are interested in making change and being involved," Teresa Bertrand, who owns BioSpirit Massage on Ski Run, told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Ski Run plans to have more events like the bike parade a few years ago. Photo/LTN file

This energy spurred the idea for the stroll on Dec. 11. Wanting to gear it toward locals is why it's on a Sunday. It will be from 3:30-5:30pm on both sides of the boulevard between Alder and Tamarack streets. Ski Run will remain open.

Carolers will be singing at various locations – with those in attendance welcome to participate. Santa has cleared his schedule in order to be at Chimayo restaurant between 4:15 and 5:30pm.

Plenty of hot chocolate will help ward off the cold temps – stop by Blue Angel, Chimayo or Nepheles.

Free face painting will take place at Blue Angel. Non-perishable donations for Bread & Broth are being accepted at The Alder Inn.

"We don't really have neighborhood pockets up here outside of Highway 50 where it feels genuinely homey," Jeff Cowen, owner of Blue Angel Café, told *Lake Tahoe News*. He added that events

help introduce people to the street and reminds others what all the area has to offer.

Ski Run activities are overseen by two entities. The business improvement district is operated by those who live or have a business on the boulevard. An assessment pays for the beautification of the area. The Friends of Ski Run have a permit with the city to operate events like the holiday stroll.

The permit can be used by people outside of Ski Run, but those on the street have the first say of approving any activity before city officials weigh in. The non-snowy seasons are easiest for the events because of the amount of traffic the street gets with skiers going to Heavenly.

With those on the street being busy, they are now starting to make a concerted effort to get others to bring events to Ski Run. While there was a big slip-and-slide there this summer, because it was above Pioneer Trail, it did not fall under the umbrella of the Ski Run group. Nonetheless, the Tahoe Regional Young Professionals, who brought in the slide, got the blessing of the folks on Ski Run before proceedings.

It's more of these outside the box events the Ski Run activists would like to attract. Traditional events are good, too, like the annual Friday farmers markets in the summer.

The Ski Run folks would like to reduce the 35 mph speed limit to make it even more friendly; that 35 tends to mean people go 40 or 45 mph. Talks have been off and on with the city. Flashing signs might be a compromise to try to get people to slow down.

The group in 2010 launched "on the run" as a slogan; with events like Dogs on the Run incorporating that moniker. The enthusiasm waned a bit and now a resurgence is under way to make Ski Run Boulevard the place to be for locals and visitors.

Opinion: What do birds hear when they sing?

By Barbara J. King, NPR

Birdsong is music to human ears.

It has inspired famous composers. For the rest of us, it may uplift the spirit and improve attention or simply be a source of delight, fun and learning.

But have you ever wondered what birds themselves hear when they sing?

After all, we know that other animals' perceptions don't always match ours. Anyone who lives with a dog has probably experienced their incredible acute hearing and smell.

Do birds hear their songs as we do?

Read the whole story

Nev. looks to alternative programs for teachers to earn license

By Amelia Pak-Harvey, Las Vegas Review-Journal

New programs that provide an alternative route to a teaching

license by blending online coursework with classroom training could help Nevada address its teacher shortage.

The state Department of Education's Commission on Professional Standards in Education approved three more alternative programs in October, bringing the total to 19 programs created since 2014.

Alternative programs offer a different route to a teaching license than the typical college classroom setting. Participants can hold a conditional teaching license, completing the necessary online coursework while still spending time with students.

Read the whole story

Gaming regulators to discuss new wagering accounts

By Thomas Moore, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada regulators will discuss allowing the use of wagering accounts for more forms of casino gambling at a special workshop Thursday.

Currently, bettors can use accounts for sports betting and some online games. Among other changes, the proposed regulations would allow people to use wagering accounts to bet on slots, video poker and bingo.

The new regulations are based on changes to gaming law made during the 2015 Nevada Legislature, the same laws that addressed skill-based gaming.

Read the whole story

Revenue projection leaves Sandoval with work to do

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – The size of the next state budget became clearer Tuesday when financial experts projected Nevada will collect \$541 million more in tax revenue over the next two years than it did during the last budget cycle.

The Economic Forum projects the state will collect \$7.9 billion in general fund tax revenue in fiscal 2017-18, a 7 percent increase over the current \$7.3 billion budget approved in 2015. The projection will be used to pass a balanced budget, as required by state law.

While the projected revenue is greater, it is still \$300 million to \$600 million less than the total budget requests state departments submitted to Gov. Brian Sandoval in October.

Read the whole story

Truckee Tahoe chorus to put

on 2 holiday concerts

The Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus of Sierra College's winter 2016 concert series "Holiday Glow" is Dec. 10-11.

The program features a colorful array of musical styles and traditions depicting the warmth and glow of the holiday season. The 50-voice chorus, now in its 15th year, was founded by the late Chris Nelson and is currently directed by Susan K. Horst.

TTCC, in keeping with its mission to promote a quality choral music curriculum in the schools, established the Truckee Tahoe Youth Chorus three years ago, and they will perform several selections. In addition, this holiday concert series will once again feature a string quintet with local musicians.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 children and may be purchased from chorus members, **online** or at the door.

The Dec. 10 show is at 7pm, the Dec. 11 is at 2pm. Both are at the Resort at Squaw Creek.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Tree removal for the Highway 89-Fanny Bridge project in Tahoe City will take place from 8am-5:30pm until May, weather permitting.
- The Carson Ranger District's fire crews have started pile burning in the Arrowhawk fuels reduction project area near Reno in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.
- Santa's annual fly-in at the Truckee airport is Dec.

10 from 10am-3pm.

• National Park Service is offering 10 free days in 2017: Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16, Presidents Day on Feb. 20, National Park Week weekends April 15-16 and April 22-23, National Park Service Birthday on Aug. 25, National Public Lands Day on Sept. 30, and Veterans Day weekend Nov. 11-12.

Fire ruins South Lake Tahoe apartment



Flames shoot out from a South Lake Tahoe apartment on Dec. 7.
Photo/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

A fire at a South Lake Tahoe apartment complex this afternoon displaced at least one person.

Flames were shooting from the bottom middle dwelling of the six-unit complex when firefighters arrived.

"We were able to stop it within 10 minutes," Battalion Chief Jim Drennan told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Investigators are on scene trying to determine the cause of the 12:45pm Dec. 7 blaze.

The apartments are on 10th Street across from the Cantina restaurant, at the corner of James Avenue.

The occupant of the apartment escaped without injuries. Red Cross arrived to help provide assistance because he was not able to grab any belongings and was only wearing his robe.

A city building inspector will determine if the other units are habitable. Two of the upper units sustained damage.

This was the second structure fire in the city limits on Wednesday. Earlier in the day firefighters responded to an oil fire on South Shore Drive. They were able to contain it to the kitchen.

Caesars unit's bankruptcy deal in jeopardy

By Tracy Rucinski, Reuters

The bank lenders of Caesars Entertainment Corp.'s operating unit said they might walk away from a plan to bring the casino unit out of its \$18 billion bankruptcy, potentially sending a high-stakes reorganization plan into disarray.

The committee of bank lenders, which includes Blackstone Group LP's GSO Capital Partners, has yet to resolve a dispute over the terms of their recovery, their lawyer Kristopher Hansen said at a hearing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Chicago on Tuesday.

Hansen said the lenders would inform the court on the status of a deal by Dec. 14, a month before a scheduled confirmation trial in Caesars Entertainment Operating Co Inc's long-running bankruptcy case.

Caesars is the parent company of Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harveys.

Read the whole story

California water conservation slips again

By Dale Kasler and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

Urban Californians used about 1.8 percent more water in October compared with a year earlier, state officials said Tuesday. It marked the fourth straight month in which conservation has slipped following the state's decision to relax drought mandates.

The State Water Resources Control Board said, however, that conservation was better in October than in September, and that it was largely pleased with the efforts Californians were making.

"Californians' continued commitment to conservation shows they don't take water for granted anymore," said board Chairwoman

Felicia Marcus in a prepared statement.

Read the whole story