

# **North Shore establishes wedding industry group**

Tahoe Wedding Industry Group has been created on the North Shore in an attempt to better market the area to brides and grooms.

Kevin Wallner with First Chair Digital Marketing be the first guest speaker at the inaugural meeting Oct. 26 at 9am at Gar Woods in Carnelian Bay. His talk is titled Digital Marketing Strategies for Wedding Pros. Meetings will be quarterly.

TheWeddingReport.com recently released a report saying the the value of wedding-related business in the Truckee-North Lake Tahoe area in the next five year is expected to grow by seven figures.

For more info, contact founder Joyce Scardina Becker at [joyce@tahoeweddinggroup.net](mailto:joyce@tahoeweddinggroup.net) or 530.563.6392.

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# **Scam artists impersonating DCSO personnel**

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office on Oct. 24 received multiple reports of attempted fraud.

In all of the reported incidents a male subject claimed to be Lt. Mike Sharp with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Caller IDs identify the phone number as 775.375.5858, located in Winnemucca. The complainants were told they owe money in regard to civil case No. 6120-NV-8901. Callers reach a voicemail stating all deputies are currently busy on other

lines and to leave a name and telephone number for a return call.

None of the complainants has given money to the suspect.

Douglas County Sheriff's Office employees do not call citizens to demand payment for any reason. If a citizen were to have a warrant of arrest, an officer would contact them and place them under arrest, or advise them to turn themselves in on the warrant.

Any call from a person who states they represent any entity in the judicial system and demands money is a fraud, according to deputies.

If anyone has any information on this matter, call 775.782.9905.

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## **Wine history lingers on palate at Tahoe pairing**



A Chardonnay to commemorate  
Mike Grgich's shocking bottle  
from 40 years ago.  
Photo/Kathryn Reed

**By Susan Wood**

STATELINE – The Judgment of Paris met the approval of Tahoe at the Food and Wine Festival President's Dinner hosted by Harveys.

The four-course dinner at the casino's 19th floor restaurant aptly named 19 Kitchen Bar featured special guest Violet Grgich providing wine.

If the name sounds familiar to those of you in wine circles, it should. Grgich is the daughter of Miljenko "Mike" Grgich, a legend in Napa Valley for most specifically gaining an award for creating the best wine in the world during a 1976 blind tasting in Paris. The Chardonnay he crafted for Chateau Montelena stunned the world and placed the Napa Valley on the wine map forever.



Food and wine enthusiasts bask in the glow of a Lake Tahoe sunset Oct. 22 while tasting history. Photo/Kathryn Reed

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the infamous encounter. Think the movie “Bottleshock.”

As diners were being seated Oct. 22, it took one man less than 15 minutes to tell the others at his table about the famous wine host. Later on in the evening, he impressed others with his declaration that Pinot is the hardest grape to grow.

Grgich’s daughter, who runs sales and marketing for the family winery, was stationed up front to greet the VIP guests with a Grgich Hills Commemorative Chardonnay she had bottled for her father to mark his 90th birthday three years ago. It sells for \$93 a bottle. It is more reminiscent of what the winning 1973 Chardonnay tasted like.

Grgich explained how the Rutherford family winery founded in 1977 with Austin Hills of Hills Brothers Coffee started with Chardonnay (since her father is known as the “King of Chardonnay”) and Riesling before evolving into Petit Syrah and Cabernet.



Violet Grgich gives a history lesson to diners.  
Photo/Kathryn Reed

What's her favorite varietal?

"It depends on the day and the weather," she told Lake Tahoe News.

Grgich displayed a personable, almost modest demeanor – further admitting she was surprised wine enthusiasts buy from her.

"I had no (sales) experience, but I just put the wine in front of people, and they buy it," she said.

Her belief in the product and its roots shine through.

Grgich told LTN she's "always aware" of living up to her father's widespread reputation for representing a famous winery name.



A king crab and butternut squash bisque starts the dining experience at Harveys. Photo/Kathryn Reed

She studied music at Indiana University, playing harpsichord.

“Why would you want to be in music? It makes no money,” she recalled her father saying to her. The message to return to her roots must have stuck.

“Wine was one of those things that was a part of my life every day,” she said.

The winery executive told the diners wine was such an integral part of life for her family that children were placed in the grape vats “to keep them in check.”

The audience chuckled.

Grgich grew up accompanying her father, a Vintners Hall of Fame inductee, into the vineyards and cellar at a young age. He told her stories while he was in Croatia of wanting to escape Communism and bad water. It was discovered that if one made wine to consume instead of drinking water, it tasted

better and made “the work day nicer,” Grgich told the captive audience.

Upon arriving in the Napa Valley in 1958, Mike Grgich met up with some powerful businessmen – most notably Robert Mondavi. Grgich created Mondavi’s first Cabernet in 1969, three years before joining the winery that made him famous – Chateau Montelena. The winery ended up No. 1 of 221 wines across the globe.

As diners feasted on a 180-degree view of Lake Tahoe and Chef Jason Behrendt’s culinary creations for the night amid music from a harpist, Grgich spun more stories about her father and the wine used to pair with each course.

The dinner was billed as new world meets old world.

The 2013 Grgich Hills Chardonnay was paired with a butternut squash bisque, with a butter-poached Alaskan red King Crab, Granny Smith Apple and shaved fennel in the center.

The Chardonnay was a fine complement to bisque melded with crab.

“Duck Two Ways” marked the second course. For those not necessarily wild about liver, the fig-sour cherry compote enhanced the 2011 Zinfandel.



Grgich wines paired perfectly  
with the chef's selections.  
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Grgich told the diners not to expect a bold Zin but reminded them this Zin was created in a European style – meant to be a lighter food complement.

“It’s not supposed to knock you off your feet. It just seduces you in a way,” she said.

The third course – the entrée – featured a venison loin, but according to a few diners, it may have been the accompanying parsnip puree that stole the spotlight. It tasted like eating vegetables straight out of the garden. The Brussel sprouts with bacon and wild mushroom slices also paired nicely with the 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon.

Thankfully, there was enough left in the glass to get a combination with the evening’s plate-licking dessert – a

chocolate and hazelnut decadence cube with hazelnut ice cream.

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# Calif. teachers campaign for education propositions

By Karma Dickerson, Fox-40

SACRAMENTO – Today is the last day to register to vote in California.



Mike Patterson

The campaigns are hitting the streets to register and persuade voters.

California Teachers Association members were campaigning statewide Sunday in favor of two education initiatives. Proposition 55 would sustain funding for schools through an extension of the tax on people making over \$250,000 a year.

Mike Patterson, a teacher at South Tahoe High School, says if Proposition 55 doesn't pass, his district would lose 10 percent of their funding.

"Class sizes will go up, programs will go away – it's not good for students," said Patterson.

Read the whole story

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# Northstar GM returning to Beaver Creek



Beth Howard

Northstar needs a new top executive. **Beth Howard** is leaving the Truckee resort to be to the chief operating officer at Beaver Creek.

Vail Resorts, the parent company, has made changes throughout its resorts.

Howard replaces Doug Lovell who is taking over the top job at Vail Mountain.

Vail Mountain's chief operating officer, Chris Jarnot, is now executive vice president of the mountain division, overseeing Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone, Perisher in Australia, Afton Alps in Minnesota, Mt. Brighton in Michigan, and Wilmot Mountain in Wisconsin.

Howard came to Northstar two years ago from Beaver Creek.

No replacement for Howard has been named.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Marketing push brings people to South Shore

By Kathryn Reed

More heads in beds is bringing in a substantial amount of money in order to promote the South Shore to even more people.

The South Lake Tahoe Tourism Improvement District's budget is more than 20 percent higher than it was a year ago; \$2.3 million v. \$2.6 million. (In 2009 the budget was \$1.8 million.)

Officials attribute the increase all to more room nights, not the price of rooms going up because the TID fee is a flat fee and not a percentage of the cost of a room night.

The TID gets its money by charging \$3 per room on most hotels, with \$4.50 a night assessed to time shares, condos and duplexes that operate as a tourist rental. This is just for properties in the city limits.

Ninety-five percent of what is collected goes to the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority. Forty-eight percent of that percentage goes to marketing and 10 percent for special events.

Jerry Bindel, president of the TID, said the reason for the upswing is the increase in marketing. He spoke at last week's City Council meeting. The city manages the collection of

money, receiving a 1 percent administrative fee for doing so.

Carol Chaplin, who heads the LTVA, said events and international travelers are making a difference.

“The important thing with the international visitor is how long they stay and the money they spend,” she said.

Material is on the tourism bureau’s website in a variety of languages as a way to be instantly accessible to would-be travelers.

LTVA, which is integral to the annual celebrity golf tournament at Edgewood Tahoe, continues to see more residual benefits from the event. Chaplin said the American Century Championship has a \$10 million economic impact on the community.

In 2015, an attendance record of more than 41,000 was set. It was broken this year with more than 47,000 attending the July tournament in Stateline.

The contract to have the tournament here goes through 2022.

LTVA is in talks with Amgen to bring the women’s cycling event back to the South Shore in May.

While the LTVA has often targeted Northern California and Los Angeles, San Diego is a new market. Results so far are positive, with the plan to continue to attract that Southern California population.

Different air routes out of Reno are helping to bring people here – like Jet Blue’s Long Beach and New York services, Alaska’s Orange County route, Allegiant increasing flights to Los Angeles, and Delta’s Atlanta flights.

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# 5 suspects caught in Truckee theft spree

Five people were arrested in Truckee in three days related to a series of thefts in the area.

Officers were alerted Oct. 21 to suspicious people entering unlocked vehicles in the Prosser Lakeview subdivision. A witness was detaining a suspect, Lourene Walter. Officers arrested Walter, 20, on felony charges of theft, being under the influence of a controlled substance, and conspiracy to commit crimes. Also on Friday officers arrested Jonathan Nash, 20, on charges of felony theft, possession of narcotics paraphernalia, and conspiracy to commit crimes.

As officers were continuing to investigate, they determined there were at least six associated thefts, including a stolen vehicle, with possibly more unreported thefts. One theft included a construction site in the Tahoe Donner subdivision where several construction tools were stolen. These were later recovered in another vehicle in the Prosser area.

Officers also determined there were three more people involved. Brittany Nash, 29, was taken into custody on Oct. 22 on felony theft and conspiracy to commit crimes, she also had a fixed blade knife concealed on her, according to officers.

Kelsey Ewing, 23, was taken into custody on charges of felony theft and conspiracy to commit crimes. Ewing was recently released for auto theft in an unassociated case.

On Oct. 23, Ronald Cochran, 54, was taken into custody. He was booked on charges on felony theft and conspiracy to commit

crimes.

Officers are continuing to follow-up on other possible crimes associated with this group. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt. Robert Womack at 530.550.2335 or [rwomack@townoftruckee.com](mailto:rwomack@townoftruckee.com).

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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## Letter: Collin deserves to be on SLT council

To the community,

I have lived, worked and been very involved in this community for 36 years and this is the first time I have been compelled to write a letter in support of a candidate.

I am writing this letter in support of Jason Collin for City Council. I have served on many boards and have attended hundreds of meetings over the years. Starting many years ago, I kept seeing one young man at every meeting I attended. In one way or another, he always seemed to be totally prepared for the meeting and more than willing to participate. I discovered it was Jason Collin.

I continued seeing him, had a chance to talk with him and instantly knew that, someday, he would make a huge impact on our community. Qualities necessary to serve on a City Council are: commitment, time, collaboration, preparedness, civility in public discourse, ability to interact with members of the community and city staff, business experience, leadership experience and problem solving. These qualities describe Jason

Collin.

I have witnessed him at meetings involving all facets of our city, as a family man, as a lover of the outdoor activities our area offers and in his very vital role at Barton Health. I cannot think of anyone who is more qualified to help move our city into, what can be, one of the most exciting times in the history of South Lake Tahoe.

I ask you to join me in voting for Jason Collin for City Council.

**Paul Middlebrook, South Lake Tahoe**

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## Snippets about Lake Tahoe

· NAMI Family Support Group is a free, confidential and safe support group of families helping other families who live with mental health challenges. They meet the second Tuesday of the month from 6-7:30pm at the South Lake Tahoe Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.

· On Nov. 18, Squaw Valley Institute will show the premiere of “It Ain’t Pretty” at Olympic Village Lodge. It is a film about the women who surf San Francisco’s Ocean Beach as well as a movement that has women forging new tides in women’s big wave surfing. Big wave surfers Bianca Valenti, Rebecca Wunderlich, and Monique Kitamura will be in attendance alongside film producer Kathleen Egan to sign posters with Q&A opportunities before and after the film. Doors open at 6:30pm and event begins at 7pm. General admission to this event is \$10 and SVI members are free.

· Lake of the Sky Outfitters will be showing “180

Degrees South, Conquerors of the Useless” on Oct. 28 at 7pm. It features a shipwreck, surfing, mountaineering, and the efforts of Yvon Chouniard (founder of Patagonia) and Doug Tompkins to preserve the wildness of Patagonia. The free movie will be shown at 1195 Rufus Allen Blvd. South Lake Tahoe.

- Nevada Reads is a program in which people throughout the state read and discuss a selected book about Nevada. The 2016 Nevada Reads author, Mark Maynard, will be at the Minden Library on Nov. 12 from 3-5pm to discuss his book “Grind.”

- Douglas County Public Library is showing “Ratchet and Clank” (rated PG) on Nov. 5 at 2pm in the Minden Library meeting room. The movie and popcorn are free.

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## **Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe**



Bella

Bella is a nice little rat terrier, maybe 20 pounds. She is 8 years old, which means that she is mature yet has many more years to go.

She has lived with dogs, kids and cats, and is house trained and crate trained.

Rat terriers make great pets, as they are affectionate, smart, and sensitive. They have lots of personality and like to be with their people. Bella will make a great addition to just about any family.

Bella is spayed, microchipped, tested for heartworm, and vaccinated. She 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**.

– *Karen Kuentz*