

Tahoe to be featured in 'Booze Traveler' TV segment

Cocktail connoisseur Jack Maxwell sets out on a mission to find the best bars and drinks in the United States for any and every occasion in Travel Channel's new special "Booze Traveler: Best Bars."

It will premier Oct. 11. The special was filmed around the Denver, Lake Tahoe, and greater Los Angeles areas.

Maxwell hunts down Prohibition-style bars hidden from view, as well as bars with spectacular and unforgettable views.

During the specials, Maxwell gets an all-access pass to the secret world of drinking that goes on behind closed doors, bookcases and vending machines, and also enjoys bars that deliver cool drinks and stunning scenery.

LTWC releases golden eagle



A golden eagle from Loyalton gets a second chance to soar. Photo/LTWC

A golden eagle is back in the wild after having been rehabilitated at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

The eagle was released Sept. 25 in the Carson Pass area near Red Lake.

The center on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe needed about a month to get the bird healthy. It had a hard time flying at first because it had not been eating.

S. Tahoe man admits guilt in Bay Area kidnapping

By Brittney Mejia and Veronica Rocha, Los Angeles Times



Matthew Muller

After a kidnapped Denise Huskins turned up in Huntington Beach in March 2015, police in Vallejo cast her disappearance as a hoax, saying it appeared to be part of an “orchestrated

event.”

On Thursday, a Harvard-educated attorney from South Lake Tahoe pleaded guilty to the kidnapping, closing a chapter in a bizarre case that turned its harsh glare first on the victim and then on the Northern California police department.

Matthew Muller, 39, previously pleaded not guilty to a kidnapping charge for the March 23, 2015, incident. He abducted Denise Huskins for two days and demanded a \$15,000 ransom for her, prosecutors said. Muller faces up to life in prison and a \$250,000 fine, according to acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert.

Read the whole story

Cops disband South Shore drug task force

By Kathryn Reed

A South Shore drug task force has disbanded, but it's not because crime has gone away.

Five years ago California said it was shutting down South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team. While the state didn't actually pull its funding until 2014, the remaining two partners – South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County – finally did the same.

“With the significant reduction in assigned personnel, the operational effectiveness of SLEDNET was diminished as major drug investigations require large numbers of law enforcement officers for things like surveillance, drug raids, etc. Last

month, the El Dorado County sheriff made the difficult decision to no longer support SLEDNET with assigned personnel, leaving only the SLTPD as a participating agency," Police Chief Brian Uhler said in a statement. "With only one agency, a task force by definition cannot continue."

SLEDNET was formed in 1988, the year before Operation Deep Snow filled headlines. That was the investigation that led to the arrest of South Lake Tahoe Mayor Terry Trupp and 19 others on federal charges that were mostly drug related.

At its peak the narcotics task force included officers from SLTPD, El Dorado County Sheriff's Department, California Department of Justice, California Highway Patrol, El Dorado County District Attorney's Office, El Dorado County Probation Department, Alpine County Sheriff's Department, Douglas County Sheriff's Department, and Nevada Division of Investigation.

El Dorado will continue to have a drug task force based out of the West Slope. South Lake Tahoe PD's two officers who were in SLEDNET will join the detectives' division. Their focus will still be on drugs.

"Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with drugs in South Lake Tahoe. We see direct connections with drug abuse and crime. Just a few months ago, a marijuana transaction-related homicide occurred in our city," Uhler said. "Social scientists and law enforcement professionals agree that myriad other crimes also have their roots in the drug trade and drug usage. Crimes related to drug use, such as theft, auto theft, and other property crimes, seriously erode the quality of life in our community."

Opinion: Election season Lake Tahoe style

By Garry Bowen

As I watched from the sidelines the proceedings of the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce's council candidate forum last week, several thoughts occurred in its aftermath, the first being that we are indeed fortunate to be able to witness in a civilized form the thought processes of our citizens in trying to make a difference, whatever that difference happens to be, in running for office at a local level.

For that, we can indeed be thankful.



Garry Bowen

As President Obama said right here in our own town – I know, I know: Harvey's is in Nevada – but his inspiring talk of conservation recognized that political boundaries, like some others, are not recognized in or by the nature that surrounds us, so, as the president said, the positive changes we'll "continue to make are going to be in all of our hands, as citizens. I always say that the most important office is the office of citizen. Change happens because of you. Don't forget that."

In "not forgetting that," listening to sincere efforts at what might constitute reasons to be elected, there were of course

some recurring themes, the most prominent of which is the growing issue of affordable housing, which by its emotional nature vitally needs to be reframed as a policy of “housing affordability,” as unless it’s designated as a very particular platform, it will, in too many minds, end up as it has many times before, heated conversation about “rusty cars, trash all-around” by those who care a bit too much about any reduction of their property value, instead of the very real issue of our municipal servants (police, fire, nurses, teachers, along with many other citizens) not being able to live in their own chosen place of work.

This issue has been and continues to be in the forefront, particularly in resort-mountain environments that thrive only because of a visitor-based economy, inevitably leading to the second issue, that of diversifying the economy, usually associated with higher income jobs, and recruiting interested companies to move here, presumably bringing those better jobs with them.

As these identified answers have been touted before in many places, for me the third (and intrusive) thought, came about – as a shadow of once-famous Erhard Seminar Training (EST), whose founder Werner Erhard used to relate: “You can never get enough of what you don’t need.”

EST focused on transforming “one’s ability to experience living so that the situations one had been trying to change or had been putting up with, clear up just in the process of life itself.”

To be clear, rearranging the musical chairs of SLT’s municipal government is not necessarily sufficient, unless new substance “brings to the forefront and realizes the ideas of transformation, personal responsibility, accountability, and possibility”, something within the purview of trust and transparency, to assure a dialogue with the whole community, not just colleagues on the council.

Initial EST sessions were “painfully enlightening, as it became obvious that much of human misery is a function of broken agreements – not keeping your word, or someone else not keeping theirs.”

The changes alluded to above will never come about, absent solid new ideas to pursue that lead to successes that can be replicated, as it is trust and transparency that establish the creds to lead, and, as Michael Bloomberg, the eminent former mayor of NYC recently said: “transparency is itself an economic engine”, which has not always been the case with South Shore politics, leading to a conclusion that one of the drivers of any SLT candidacy always carries trust in its background, the lack of which ends up clouding motivations for change, and in losing the ability to learn what the best change is.

If we are to recognize the wisdom of making a policy issue of housing affordability, it will be with the trust and transparency of informed knowledge of how important it is to the ongoing stability of a place that cherishes its outdoors, to strengthen and fortify its ability to make sure its citizens are cared for, not as mere vote-getting devices, but as neighbors that are part of a whole – integral needed parts of a holistically-competent community, one that supports itself as/with a superior business model, not as one that barely functions as “what can we get away with”... one candidate touted his participation in the Citizens Academy, as if finding out how things are done was apt inspiration to do better than what was shown and taught, after sensing better ways than what was observed.

Nationally, internationally, and indeed globally, change is now occurring in ways that we would not have thought about just a decade ago, so the final thought is that we need to be in more control of how our choices come about, as it is also coming true that we are in danger of “getting more than enough of what we no longer need”, while not reaching out well enough

for what we do in fact need -comfort zones can themselves become endangered species.

Revisit what it means to be a citizen, or others will decide for you ... and perhaps not to your liking.

Garry Bowen has more than a 50-year connection to the South Shore, with an immediate past devoted to global sustainability, on most of its current fronts: green building, energy and water efficiencies, and public health.

Researchers confront an epidemic of loneliness

By Katie Hafner, New York Times

The woman on the other end of the phone spoke lightheartedly of spring and of her 81st birthday the previous week.

“Who did you celebrate with, Beryl?” asked Alison, whose job was to offer a kind ear.

“No one, I...”

And with that, Beryl’s cheer turned to despair.

Her voice began to quaver as she acknowledged that she had been alone at home not just on her birthday, but for days and days. The telephone conversation was the first time she had spoken in more than a week.

About 10,000 similar calls come in weekly to an unassuming office building in this seaside town at the northwest reaches of England, which houses the Silver Line Helpline, a 24-hour

call center for older adults seeking to fill a basic need: contact with other people.

Researchers have found mounting evidence linking loneliness to physical illness and to functional and cognitive decline. As a predictor of early death, loneliness eclipses obesity.

Read the whole story

How to plan an active vacation

By Shivani Vora, New York Times

Forget the standard hangout by the beach or sightseeing through a city vacation. Hiking, walking and biking are less common ways to explore a destination, according to Susan Sparks, a travel adviser at Points of Interest Travel in Aspen, Colo., who specializes in customized active trips.

“When you take an active trip, you’re out in nature and get a perspective on a place that most travelers don’t. Plus, you’re moving a lot and burn plenty of calories to balance out all the eating and drinking that are typical on vacations,” she said.

But she cautions that all active getaways aren’t created equal and offers tips on planning one that’s best for you.

Read the whole story

Gaming expert laments industry's lack of innovation

By Thomas Moore, Las Vegas Sun

Where is the innovation in casino gaming?

It's a simple question and one Mark Yoseloff, executive director of UNLV's Center for Gaming Innovation, seemed to ask repeatedly during his presentation at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) on Wednesday.

The resort itself has changed, adding day clubs, high-end nightclubs and other new amenities, Yoseloff said, but when it comes to actual gambling, the industry has lagged.

[Read the whole story](#)

SLT Endowment has money for Tahoe nonprofits

The South Lake Tahoe Endowment, which operates under the umbrella of the El Dorado Community Foundation, is accepting grant applications.

In 2015, the South Lake Tahoe Endowment cabinet made the decision to open the process to the entire nonprofit community. Some much-needed services were made possible as a result of that grant cycle, including the opening of the warm

room in winter 2015-16.

Requests for proposals will be accepted from all nonprofits located in the Lake Tahoe basin that offer programs or services to the residents of South Lake Tahoe, including enhanced educational experiences for youth from local schools.

Application forms are interactive **online** forms with separate applications for school grant application (up to \$1,000) and community grant application (\$5,000 maximum). The deadline to apply is Oct. 15 at 5pm.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Lake Tahoe Marathon week is Oct. 6-9. Details are **online**.

- El Dorado County Undersheriff Randy Peshon was reappointed to the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee.

- More than 180 Heavenly Mountain Resort employees volunteered at Douglas County's Kahle Park on Sept. 17 and Sept. 20. Volunteers laid 1,000 gallons of slurry seal on Kahle Park's pathways, completed a block retaining wall and slope stabilization project, covered more than 1 acre with groundcover, removed dangerous trees from under a power line, and completed an entryway beautification project.

· The Bureau of Land Management Carson City District Office, the Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Nevada Division of Forestry in conjunction with Nevada State Parks are lifting fire restrictions Sept. 30. Campfires still require a campfire permit on the Carson & Bridgeport Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

· Brittani Curtis has joined Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce as the communications and marketing coordinator.