

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- South Lake Tahoe has resurrected its battalion division in the fire department. Jim Drennan, Tim Spencer and Karl Koeppen now have the title of battalion chief.
 - El Dorado County Senior Nutrition Program is looking for volunteers to deliver meals to homebound senior citizens. Each volunteer generally works one day each week to an assigned route, delivering meals between 10:30am and noon. For more info, call 530.621.6160.
 - Douglas High School grad Cole Sonnemann is now a sheriff's deputy in the county he grew-up in.
 - Homewood Mountain Resort will host two Farm to Peak dinners – Aug. 13 and Sept. 4. To make reservations, go **online**.
 - The Douglas County Public Library will show "Bolt" (rated PG) on July 23 at 2pm in the Minden Library meeting room. The movie and popcorn are free.
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Rain barrels a solution for saving water



Rain barrels are making a comeback as droughts and watering restrictions are on the rise. Photo/Gardener's Supply Company

By Melinda Myers

Too much or not enough water and never when you need it seems to be a common lament of gardeners. Reduce the impact of these weather challenges while conserving water, saving money on water and sewer bills, and growing beautiful gardens with the help of rain barrels. These century old devices are making a comeback as droughts, watering restrictions and storm water runoff are on the rise.

Contact your local municipality before getting started. Some communities have regulations and guidelines for using rain barrels and many offer rebates to homeowners who install them.

Start your conversion to rain barrels one downspout at a time. You can capture as much as 623 gallons of water from 1,000 square feet of roof in a 1-inch rainfall. This can be a

lot to manage when first adapting to this change of habit. Taking little steps allows you to successfully match the use of rain barrels to your gardening style and schedule.

Make your own or purchase one of the many rain barrels on the market. Regardless of which vessel you choose there are some features to consider when adding a rain barrel to your landscape.

Make sure the top is covered to keep out debris and mosquitoes. Or select one with a solid lid and opening just large enough to accommodate the downspout.

Look for one with a spigot low on the barrel, so water does not stagnate at the bottom. Use the spigot to fill watering cans or attach a hose. Elevate the barrel on cinder blocks or a decorative stand for easier access and to increase water pressure.

Make sure there is an overflow outlet to direct excess water away from your home's foundation. Or use it to link several barrels together, increasing your water collecting capacity. A downspout diverter is another way to manage rain barrel overflows. When the rain barrels are full this device diverts the water back to the downspout where it is carried away from your home's foundation.

And the good news is you don't need to overlook beauty for function. You'll find many attractive options in a variety of shapes and sizes in garden centers and online catalogs. Some include a recessed top for storing accessories or growing a potted plant. You'll find ones with decorative finishes that mimic a basket weave, fine terra cotta or wood. Those with a flat backside fit right next to the house, saving space.

Rain water is naturally softened and free of flouride and chlorine; great for plants. Do not use rain barrel water for drinking, cooking or your pets. Avoid concerns of contamination from roofing materials and debris by only using

the water for ornamental plants.

Maintenance is easy. Check for and remove twigs and debris that may collect and block the flow of water. Clean the inside of the barrel at least once a year with an environmentally friendly detergent. Those in cold climates need to drain the rain barrel and cover the opening or turn it upside down for winter storage. Make sure to divert the water away from the house once the downspout is disconnected.

Don't worry about mosquitoes. Covering the opening with a fine screen and using the water on a regular basis will minimize the risk. Or use the eco-friendly bacterial agent *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) that kills mosquito larvae, but is safe for pets, people and wildlife.

Now is the time to start putting rainwater to work for you and your garden. Look for convenient locations for collecting and using rainwater from the roof of your home, shed or garage. A little effort put in now will result in benefits for years to come.

Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including "Small Space Gardening" and the "Midwest Gardener's Handbook".

Celebrities combine fun with serious golf



Steph Curry lines up his putt during the July 21 practice round. Photo/Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Steph Curry understands what it is like to be a fan. The basketball star is nutty about golf, being a fan of Jordan Spieth's. His wife just shake's her head when he spends six hours on the couch watching it on TV.

Where is he on a day off during the hoop season? On a golf course.

Curry, star of the Golden State Warriors basketball team, is back on the links for the 27th annual American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe. It was hard to miss him Thursday, as he had the biggest gallery. For the three days of the actual tournament, which begins today, Curry is likely to rival singer Justin Timberlake for the largest following.



Actor-singer Jack Wagner is ready to tee off. Photo/Kathryn Reed

On July 21, Curry was patient as the crowds swarmed and flung all sorts of paraphernalia at him to sign. Selfies were part of the requests, too. So was signing and throwing footballs on hole 17.

“I have much less confidence on the greens than I do on the court. Everybody asks like if putting is like shooting free throws. Like that six-footer for par or something like that,” Curry said. “It has a very similar kind of mindset. And it’s just you, the ball and the target.”

Fans were wearing a ton of gold and blue on Thursday.

But the No. 30 jersey wasn’t the only one in the crowd. J.D. Dostlik of Santa Cruz had a Jerome Bettis shirt on. He’s originally from Pittsburgh – where “the bus” made a name for himself on the gridiron. Dostlik was able to get a shirt signed for his friend Wendy Ocegueda of Chico.

Another woman told Bettis that without his play the Steelers would not have won the Super Bowl. He responded, “I’m not so sure about that.”



J.D. Dostlik secures a Jerome Bettis signature for a friend. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Other fans weren't too sure about some facts. One woman was overheard telling her friends that former Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann is who the Heisman Trophy is named after.

Former ace of the Atlanta Braves, Greg Maddox, had his caddy taking pictures on his phone at the driving range in an attempt to see how he was swinging.

The Golf Channel has its popular glass break challenge set up near the driving range. It took Mark Mulder, last year's ACC champion, two swings to shatter the glass.



Former football great Marcus Allen launches one down the fairway.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Jack Wagner, a two-time winner of this tournament, hammed it up a bit for fans on hole 10. He started singing for a group of women, using a golf club as a mic. For those in the bleachers he made a point to come close enough to be photographed.

One thing all the players won't have to contend with is former champions Billy Joe Tolliver, Rick Rhoden and Dan Quinn.

The 86 celebrities gunning for a piece of the \$600,000 kitty will begin teeing off at 6:30 this morning. The winner will be crowned Sunday.

Opinion: Land, homes tend to be disappointing investments

By Robert J. Shiller, New York Times

Buy land: They're not making it anymore. That often repeated adage sounds like good financial advice.

But over the long run, it hasn't been. Despite solid price increases over the last few years, land and homes have actually been disappointing investments. It's worth considering why.

Let's start by looking at the numbers. The best long-term data on land in the United States is for farmland, which is valuable in its own right and can also be considered a great reservoir that can be converted to housing and other purposes at opportune times.

Over the century from 1915 to 2015, though, the real value of American farmland (deflated by the Consumer Price Index) increased only 3.1 times, according to the Department of Agriculture. That comes to an average increase of only 1.1 percent a year – and with a growing population, that's barely enough to keep per capita real land value unchanged.

Read the whole story

Golden age of antibiotics comes to an end

By Melissa Healy, Los Angeles Times

On May 18, a team working at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research here had its first look at a sample of the bacterium *Escherichia coli*, taken from a 49-year-old woman in Pennsylvania. She had a urinary tract infection with a disconcerting knack for surviving the assaults of antibiotic medications. Her sample was one of six from across the country delivered to the lab of microbiologist Patrick McGann.

Within hours, a preliminary analysis deepened concern at the lab. Over the next several days, more sophisticated genetic sleuthing confirmed McGann's worst fears.

More ominously, the gene's presence on a plasmid – a tiny mobile loop of DNA that can be readily snapped off and attached to other bacteria – suggested that it could readily jump to other *E. coli* bacteria, or to entirely different forms of disease-causing organisms. That would make them impervious to colistin as well.

It was a milestone public health officials have been anticipating for years. In a steady march, disease-causing microbes have evolved ways to evade the bulwark of medications used to treat bacterial infections. For a variety of those illnesses, only colistin continued to work every time. Now this last line of defense had been breached as well.

Read the whole story

Letter: Two cultures of Lake Tahoe

To the community,

We recently spent our first vacation in Lake Tahoe. From experience and observation this is what we found.

The culture of South Lake Tahoe is dominated by big time gambling, parties, drinking, restaurants, tourist traps, and lake activities. For sure action is the buzz word for tourist. There is only one main road around the lake and in South Lake traffic moves at a snail's pace because of traffic volume and stoplights. Be ready to spend one to two hours in bumper to bumper traffic when driving through South Lake Tahoe.

In North Lake Tahoe we found a culture of laid back, kick back, relax, stop and smell the roses. A place to enjoy nature, fine food, beautiful beaches, dense forest, and scenic drives. As a professional AV producer-photographer of 40 years, I found North Lake Tahoe to be a photographer's paradise.

From the Internet we happened to pick a lodge that perfectly matches the culture of North Lake Tahoe. In addition, this wonderful place to stay just happens to have the finest small gourmet restaurant in America. With two master chefs, they keep traffic low and food quality at the highest levels, better than five stars. For the ultimate taste bud experience and treat make reservations at The Rustic Lounge months early.

John and Brigitte Sims, Dallas

Report: Trump aides considered Sandoval for VP

By Seth A. Richardson, Reno Gazette-Journal

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's top advisers wanted him to consider Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval as a possible vice-presidential pick, according to an article in the *New York Times* magazine.

The article written by Robert Draper and published Wednesday details the selection process Trump undertook before finally deciding on Indiana Gov. Mike Pence. Trump's aides floated a few names, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Sandoval, according to the article.

But there was one big hang-up that kept the idea from getting off the ground: Sandoval's support for Kasich late in the primary.

[Read the whole story](#)

Calif. giant trees cloned to combat climate change

By Scott Smith, AP

CAMP NELSON — At the foot of a giant sequoia in California's Sierra Nevada, two arborists stepped into harnesses then inched up ropes more than 20 stories into the dizzying canopy of a tree that survived thousands of years, enduring drought, wildfire and disease.

There, the arborists clipped off tips of young branches to be hand-delivered across the country, cloned in a lab and eventually planted in a forest in some other part of the world.

The two are part of a cadre of modern day Johnny Appleseeds who believe California's giant sequoias and coastal redwoods are blessed with some of the heartiest genetics of any trees on Earth – and that propagating them will help reverse climate change, at least in a small way.

"It's a biological miracle," said tree climber Jim Clark, firmly back on the ground and holding a green sprig to his lips as if to kiss it. "This piece of tissue ... can be rooted, and we have a miniature 3,000-year-old tree."

The cloning expedition to Camp Nelson, a mountain community about 100 miles southeast of Fresno, was led by David Milarch, co-founder of Archangel Ancient Tree Archive.

The Michigan-based nurseryman preaches the urgency of restoring the Earth's decimated forests. In two decades, he says his nonprofit group has cloned 170 types of trees and planted more than 300,000 of them in seven countries with willing landowners.

"It's really a race against time," Milarch said. "If we start right now, we can go after climate change and reverse it before it's too late."

Sequoias growing in the Sierra are among the biggest and oldest trees on Earth, some nearly 300 feet tall and up to 3,000 years old.

Relying on common sense that he says is being borne out by science, Milarch, 66, believes their size and robustness make them ideal for absorbing greenhouse gases that drive climate change on the planet. He likens them to people who drink and smoke all their lives, yet thrive well into their 90s.

One skeptic is Todd Dawson, a professor of integrated biology at UC Berkeley. He admires Archangel's creative efforts but says it's unclear whether the towering trees have superior genes or whether they were simply lucky not to meet the fate of a logger's saw.

Chances are slim, he said, that cloning and planting a limited number of trees will cool the warming planet. He favors more sweeping approaches such as curbing the use of fossil fuels and protecting vast rainforests.

"That's one of the things about global warming – it's a global problem," Dawson said. "You're going to have to plant a lot of trees to combat global warming."

A team of about a dozen expert tree climbers from across the country volunteered for the expedition in May to restock Archangel's store of genetic samples. They risked their lives to climb to the ends of massive limbs, starting in the southern Sierra sequoia grove and winding up nearly 500 miles away in Northern California, where they carefully collected additional samples from coastal redwoods – a taller, thinner cousin of the giant sequoia.

Clark wrapped the clippings he gathered in damp newspaper, placed them inside ice-filled duffel bags and boarded an overnight flight to the Archangel's lab across country in Copemish, a rural village in northwestern Michigan.

There, Clark and another propagation specialist snipped off some 2,000 shoots a few inches long and planted them in small containers of a peat-and-gel mixture.

Another 1,000 fingernail-sized bits of greenery were placed into jars containing a blend of seaweed-based gelatin and growth hormones.

The samples grow beneath purplish fluorescent lights under humidity and temperatures designed to encourage rooting.

Cloning ancient trees is tricky business, lab workers say, and many samples don't survive.

Later this year, Archangel's team will come west to plant up to 1,000 sequoia and redwood saplings in a cool, damp region of Oregon where the trees will have the best chance to grow.

Bill Werner, a horticulture consultant based in Monterey, California, who has worked with Archangel, says that in the face of global warming, it's easy to dismiss the efforts of a "renegade" group that relies heavily on donations and volunteer nurserymen and arborists.

"That's not fair," Werner said. "It may be a drop in the bucket, but at least somebody's doing something."

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Steve Teshara is the interim executive director of Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce.
- Professional stargazer Gigi Giles is putting on an event at Spooner Lake on July 29 at 8pm. Participants will be able to peer through high-powered telescopes and astronomical binoculars. The event is free and park entry fees will be waived. For more info contact Josh Rhein at spooner.ranger@gmail.com.
- "Hamlet, Russians and Monkeys" will be at the Boathouse Theatre at Valhalla on July 21-24 and Aug. 6-7 at 7:30pm. For more info and tickets, go **online**.
- In June, the High Fives Foundation granted \$18,900 to six athletes.

· The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards takes the stage in TJ's Corral at the Carson Valley Inn on July 30 at 8pm. More info is **online**.

Letter: Parishioners help serve at B&B

To the community,

"Today was a wonderful experience," commented Sheldon Zimbler, as he was volunteering as a member of Friends of Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church's Adopt A Day of Nourishment sponsor crew. "It was good to not watch TV, especially in this difficult time, rather to feel a very small part of the solution."

Zimbler and fellow sponsor volunteer Ed Day came to Bread & Broth's dinner on July 11 to work alongside B&B volunteers to serve the food insecure of the Tahoe South Shore community.

The full course evening dinners served at St. Theresa Grace Hall every Monday by the Bread & Broth program are funded by generous donors who provide the \$250 used to purchase food, serving supplies and utilities for each Monday evening dinner. Such wonderful sponsors as Friends of Our Lady of Tahoe Catholic Church feed up to 120 nutritious meals at their evening dinners and provide a safe and secure environment for those who struggle daily with just the basic needs of life.

At the Friends of Our Lady of Tahoe sponsorship dinner, Zimbler and Day served 110 dinner guests a wonderful meal with a salmon entrée, roasted potatoes, green beans, asparagus, tomato salad and a wide array of desserts. In addition to the

main meal, food give-away bags and meal left over containers were distributed by the hard working duo and the week No. 2 B&B team members.

Zimbler best described the atmosphere at the Monday evening dinner with his comment, "The volunteers were great. The dinner guests were so appreciative. God bless us all."

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth