

Bull riding a highlight at EDC Fair

Bull riding is one of the signature events of the El Dorado County Fair, which begins June 16 in Placerville.

“A true cowboy wants as wild and feisty a bull as possible so they have a chance to win,” says Wes Ibrahimi, whose Humpz and Hornz Ranch is known among bull riders to have top of the line stock. “Good bulls bring the best out of the riders and good riders do the same for the bulls.”

In bull riding, the rider and the bull are judged on a one to 25 scale by two judges, with a possible total score of 50 points for each. A 22-point bull is considered a good bull, which equals a 44 point score between the two judges.

On Friday at 8pm, at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds dozens of cowboys will attempt to ride Ibrahimi's bulls. They'll vie for the small chance at a little bit of prize money, a silver buckle and a perfect eight seconds.

The event is included in the price of fair admission.

The fair is June 16-19. For more info, go **online**.

K's Kitchen: A sandwich worthy of the barbecue

By Kathryn Reed

I have found a new favorite sandwich – and it's perfect for

summer.

It's going to taste even better as tomatoes come into season. Either cherry or grape tomatoes will work. And various colors will just make it that much prettier. Red, though, will keep with the traditional caprese theme.

Ideally, grill the tomatoes in something with a solid bottom. Unfortunately my two grill devices have holes in them. Cleaning up the next day wasn't hard, but it certainly wasn't fun.

I used veganaise because that is what I had in the fridge.

The great thing about getting a baguette is that you can individualize the size of the sandwich. For one round of leftovers I used a tortilla. This dramatically cut down on the bread consumption, but it also eliminated the true sandwich aspect.



Charred Caprese Sandwich

$\frac{1}{2}$ C mayonnaise

2 tsp Dijon mustard

1 T fresh lemon juice

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp finely grated lemon zest

Kosher salt

2 large shallot, thinly sliced into rings

4 garlic cloves, finely grated

3 T red wine vinegar

1 baguette, split in half and then cut into desired lengths

Olive oil

3 C cherry tomatoes

Freshly ground black pepper

1 C (packed) torn basil leaves

$\frac{1}{2}$ C (loosely packed) parsley leaves

4 ounces fresh mozzarella, torn into pieces

Mix mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice and zest in a small bowl; season with salt.

Toss shallot, garlic, and vinegar in another small bowl; season with salt.

Prepare a grill for medium-high heat. Brush cut sides of bread with olive oil. Grill until lightly charred.

Drizzle olive oil over tomatoes. Barbecue tomatoes in cast iron skillet or other grill device until they are blistered and lightly charred. Stir so they cook evenly.

Add tomatoes to vinegar; season with salt and pepper. Then add basil and parsley; toss gently.

Spread both halves of bread with mayonnaise mixture. Top with tomatoes and pieces of mozzarella.

Forest ranger – not a job for the weak, timid



Seasonal forest rangers do a variety of work, including clearing the Pacific Crest Trail. Photo/Provided

By Susan Wood

Being a seasonal ranger is no walk in the woods. It often involves hard physical labor.

U.S. Forest Service ranger is a coveted job, after all people apply by the thousands; a process that starts in January. The program runs from May to October.

While starting to inquire about the seasonal ranger program, longtime Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit forester extraordinaire Don Lane asked this reporter, "Have you seen the movie 'Walk in the Woods'?"

"Why, yes, I have," adding the proverbial: "The book (by Bill Bryson) was better."

What Lane was getting at is that perhaps his latest ranger recruits may want to see the film to get a glimpse of living in the wilderness and how some people behave.



For ranger Miranda LeConte, interacting with people is her

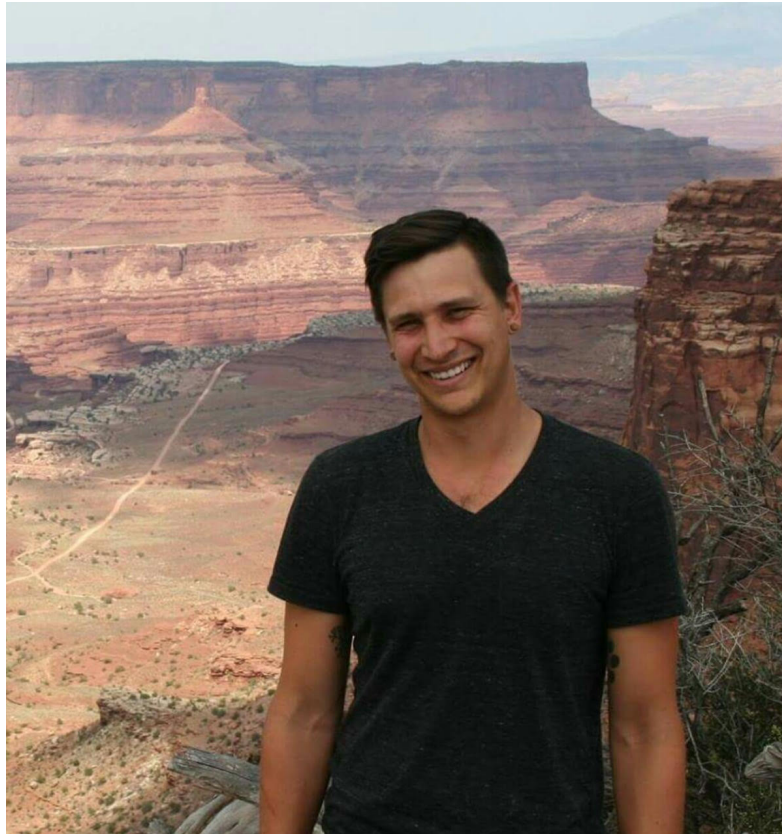
favorite part of the job. Photo/Provided

There are 18 rangers – two general foresters, nine Taylor Creek interpretive personnel and seven staffers in the wildland program. As the supervisory recreation forester, Lane takes the responsibility of nurturing the newbies seriously. There's pride in that uniform, and it shows – even after 45 years with LTBMU.

“I have a responsibility to them. You have to inspire them, to motivate them and tell them the responsibilities. Once you put that badge on, people will react to it,” said the iconoclastic ranger to Lake Tahoe, who started with LTBMU before computers were installed. He recalled “the old days” when hiring recruits meant going through stacks of written applications – all diverse individuals with varied backgrounds and dreams.

What needed to be stressed is that the innate challenge to the seasonal work is staying committed. The schedule involves four 10-hour days a week.

With 5.7 million visitors descending on the jewel of the Sierra Nevada, the rangers are outnumbered in the Desolation Wilderness by one employee to 11,000 guests.



Brian Homberger, a native of Australia, is spending his summer as a ranger in Tahoe. Photo/Provided

“It’s not what you do that’s necessary. It’s what you can contribute,” Lane told *Lake Tahoe News*. “This is a dedicated team of professionals. It’s a privilege to work with these rangers who want to live in the wilderness.”

The seasonal rangers have a multitude of duties, from trail or facility maintenance to working in interpretation at the Taylor Creek Visitors Center on the outskirts of Camp Richardson.

Lake Tahoe News was given the opportunity to speak with the four new seasonal rangers and their supervisor Chris Engelhardt, the wildland recreation area manager, on the day before National Trails Day about their moment of discovery when they decided to be a ranger.

“What I realized was wild with a big ‘W’ was not like any place on Earth. I was consumed. Once I learned about it, I

took on the responsibility to take care of it,” Miranda LeConte said.



Chris Engelhardt, left, supervises the seasonal rangers in LTBMU. Photo/Provided

LeConte recalled working in 2013 at the Eldorado National Forest visitor center when she had the opportunity to take a day hike to a lake in the Desolation Wilderness.

“Once I put my feet in the water, it started for me,” she said.

From there, her calling resembled poetry in motion.

At age 23, the Camino resident studies environmental management in the winter. In summer, she’s a first time LTBMU ranger now going through an extensive training regimen. The training has recently involved going out in the woods and meeting up with people – her favorite part of the job.

“From those experiences, I can talk to the public and make contact, seeing why people choose to go into the wilderness,” she said.



This is Sam Yarbrough's
first season as a ranger.
Photo/Provided

There lies a delicate balance. An appreciation and respect may develop between backcountry enthusiasts, but at the same time, a challenge may arise if someone is wary of authority. Consequently, the job requires support of hikers and backpackers, but may also involve telling them they're doing something wrong – whether consciously or unconsciously.

Inevitably, a kinship is created between the rangers. LeConte commended and thanked her buddy and fellow ranger Shannon Maguire for helping her use a crosscut saw to do trail maintenance.

"I never used one before. But Shannon taught me. She was good and stressed safety," she said.

It's not the first time Maguire has stepped up to the plate.

At age 35, it's her eighth season as a returning seasonal ranger. In the winter, she works in ski patrol for Sierra-at-Tahoe. Last year, she was awarded employee of the year. She likes how her summer gig involves diversity of tasks.

"My favorite part is that it changes every year, and every day

could be different,” she said. “One day you could be doing trail maintenance and another day campground cleanup.”

She also enjoys talking to people in the wilderness and maybe catching them early if they’re not prepared. These circumstances have occurred this year with the substantial snowpack. For instance, the Bay View Trail still has substantial snow and one of the streams to Velma Lakes is so high hikers can’t get across it.



Shannon Maguire has specialized training to fight fires. Photo/Provided

Maguire, who’s originally from Albuquerque, has gained quite a repertoire of skills in the mountains. She and Engelhardt hold “a red card,” which makes them fully trained in firefighting

techniques – a valuable skill to possess in the ever-so challenging fire seasons in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range.

All recruits are expected to be eyes and ears in reporting fires and carry a Forest Service radio as well as a map and compass to be able to figure out coordinates. Maguire and Engelhardt may completely suit up with fire gear that includes the heavy shelter kits.

It's Sam Yarbrough's first season as a seasonal ranger. At age 26, she attended college in Colorado and now hopes to live in the woods to develop an even greater appreciation of it. She hopes the people she encounters will too.

"I'm encouraged to inspire us to protect the regional wilderness, and I want to explore as much as I can," she said.

As the fourth recruit, Brian Homberger came the farthest on his journey as a Lake Tahoe seasonal ranger. The 26-year-old hails from Melbourne, Australia, scoring a Tallac site cabin where seven people divvy up four rooms.

It's all a part of the job for Homberger, who loves to get down and dirty with his field of study. He hopes to apply what he gains in this ranger experience with a degree in biology and discipline in restoration ecology. In the winter, he works in a native plant nursery.

What Homberger has experienced in plants, Engelhardt, 39, has picked up on in the wildlife – listing the grouse and small rubber boa constrictor as the most unique sightings he's made in the Desolation Wilderness.

In tune to John Muir, Engelhardt considers all the rangers as naturalists – especially when it comes to the pristine nature of the Desolation.

He cited a water quality survey conducted there in 2011, and every lake showed no sign of giardia – a parasite associated

with contaminated drinking water that causes intestinal infections.

No wonder all the rangers expressed the mission of harboring the greater good of their jobs.

“We become experts on wilderness values. We’re not just hiking the trails with shovels,” Engelhardt said.

Opinion: Remembering South Shore’s World Cup

By Garry Bowen

With Friday’s announcement of a World Cup event returning to Squaw Valley next spring, another World Cup a long time ago triggered thoughts of another commemoration, that of our own Spider Sabich, whose No. 1 World Cup victory was right here at Heavenly in April 1968.

His fate was not so immortal, as a number of years later (spring 1976), he was shot to death in Aspen by Claudine Longet, wife of Andy Williams, in a controversial “accident” that was also marred by forensic mistakes that obviated prosecution attempts. She was summarily convicted of negligent homicide, serving a very limited sentence and a small fine in the Pitkin County courthouse/jail in downtown Aspen.



Garry Bowen

As a local, Sabich need not be forgotten as we continue to honor our three gold-medal women, all from Meyers, as he was from just a bit farther away, Kyburz, and skied the same mountain area that brought their skills to the fore in such spectacular fashion. He learned to ski at the now defunct Edelweiss (now Camp Sacramento). His father was the California highway patrolman along the Highway 50 corridor, using his patrol car to take the Sabich kids (his older sister Mary, Spider, Vladimir Jr.) and his younger brother, Steve (known as Pinky) to their ski lessons just a few miles down the road from Sierra Ski Ranch (the original name of the now renowned Sierra-at-Tahoe), where Hannah Teter, Jamie Anderson and Maddie Bowman came to such well-earned prominence.

This writer has a personal attachment to memorializing Sabich, as in earlier years, I rode with Spider and his sister Mary each and every day on the school bus to El Dorado High in Placerville for a school year, not an insignificant trip (each way) given Kyburz's distance (and Whitehall, my domicile just prior to South Shore) from our county seat.

In that year, and subsequently, Sabich kept in local touch, particularly in the ski realm, as the FIS (Federation Internationale du Ski) and World Cup attention brought recognition to Tahoe's ski world, and we both had familial contact with the Rothgeb family, who lived next door to the Kuraisa's on Saddle Road above the California Lodge. Chris Kuraisa was one of the founders of Heavenly Valley, and the Rothgeb family effectively ran Heavenly: Wally Sr. the mountain operations, Wally Jr. on the U.S. Ski Team and a

contemporary of mine, with mom Betty running Heavenly's business side.

When Sabich came to town, myself, Wally Jr., John Marchini Sr. and a few others would socialize at either the Christiana (now Himmel Haus), as it was built by Peter Brinkman, head of Heavenly's ski school and a couple of brothers from Santa Cruz in the summer of 1965 – or at Harrah's, as Bill Harrah sponsored some FIS events, including the FIS South Shore Room dinner honoring Sabich's World Cup first place win.

Many treasured memories can accrue from an event like the one Squaw Valley has secured for the coming spring, as Squaw Valley's Andy Wirth stated in the *San Francisco Chronicle* recognizing the World Cup as "the single most prestigious event you can host at a ski resort."

My desire to honor one-of-our-own, the ill-fated Spider Sabich, was fueled by the excited knowledge of what that prestige might bring to the area, spurred on by the subsequent wins that Hannah, Jamie, Julia (Mancuso), and Maddie have accomplished, these many years after Spider's No. 1 World Cup win, right here on South Shore.

To not remember the great Spider Sabich would miss adding a humble luster to all of our ongoing skiing efforts, as he would be one of the first to congratulate those accomplishments were he still with us.

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.

Traffic-weary homeowners and Waze at war

By Steve Hendrix, Washington Post

When the traffic on Timothy Connor's quiet Maryland street suddenly jumped by several hundred cars an hour, he knew who was partly to blame: the disembodied female voice he could hear through the occasional open window saying, "Continue on Elm Avenue"

The marked detour around a months-long road repair was several blocks away. But plenty of drivers were finding a shortcut past Connor's Takoma Park house, slaloming around dog walkers and curbside basketball hoops, thanks to Waze and other navigation apps.

Connor borrowed a tactic he read about from the car wars of Southern California and other traffic-weary regions: He became a Waze impostor. Every rush hour, he went on the Google-owned social-media app and posted false reports of a wreck, speed trap or other blockage on his street, hoping to deflect some of the flow.

He continued his guerrilla counterattack for two weeks before the app booted him off, apparently detecting a saboteur in its ranks. That made Connor a casualty in the social-media skirmishes erupting across the country as neighborhoods try to contend with suddenly savvy drivers finding their way on routes that were once all but secret.

Read the whole story

Pony Express re-creation to ride through Hope Valley

The annual re-ride of the of the Pony Express from Sacramento to St. Joseph, Mo., will pass through Hope Valley on June 16 at about 9am – give or take two hours on either side.

This is a 10-day ride that has more than 600 riders traveling 1,966 miles nonstop. They follow the historic Pony Express Trail.

The Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company carried letters and telegrams for 19 months in 1860-61.

More information about the ride is **online**.

Getting away from it all – with digital help

By Louis Hansen, Bay Area News Group

It might seem wrong to reach for the smartphone for anything more than a photo during a hike. But a number of apps make it easier to find the trails, sweeping vistas and brilliant meadows.

For some nature-lovers, an app is the alternative to pulling out the guidebook to plan a trip. Once you get inside the park boundaries, mobile phones can replace the accordion maps. After the hike or biking trip, apps can let you share and brag on social platforms geared to fellow intrepid outdoorsmen and women.

Outdoor guides say they've come to accept and even embrace the innovations.

The potential audience for outdoor apps is gauged in the millions. The National Park Service reports the park system counted 307 million visits last year, up 7 percent from 2000.

Read the whole story

9-day festival all about the outdoors at Tahoe

Alpenglow Sports' fourth annual summer edition of the nine-day Alpenglow Mountain Festival starts June 18.

The North Lake Tahoe event is a celebration of human-powered events, clinics, presentations and more. Geared for toward the beginner and intermediate mountain sports enthusiasts, the Alpenglow Mountain Festival will showcase some of the best activities Lake Tahoe has to offer including trail running, hiking, yoga, standup paddleboarding, rock climbing and natural history events.

The majority of events are free, so space is limited and participants are encouraged to register online.

New this year is the Broken Arrow Skyrace, a three-distance trail running event at Squaw Valley.

The complete events schedule and map of locations for the June 18-16 festival are **online**.

Day of festivities at Tahoe Paradise Park

The South Lake Tahoe Optimist's annual Day in Paradise is June 18.

Festivities begin with breakfast at 8am.

There will be a car show, free kids' games, duck races, food, beer garden, silent auction, live music.

The fun wraps up at 6pm.

The event is at Tahoe Paradise Park on the South Shore.

For more info, call 530.541.4700.

Fatal Truckee accident blamed on drugs, speed

Drugs and alcohol contributed to a fatal accident in Truckee last month, according to Truckee police officers.

Toxicology reports that just came back show Patrick Smiley, 36, had a blood alcohol level of 0.24 – three times the legal limit. He also had marijuana and barbiturates in his system, officers said.

"We know that any of these drugs can cause impairment" Sgt. Robert Womack said in a press release, "but we also know that these particular drugs have a synergistic effect, causing even more impairment when taken in combination. Any loss of life is tragic but these preventable deaths are especially painful."

A passenger suffered major injuries and was airlifted to Renown Medical Center in Reno.

Smiley was driving on Glenshire Drive at Old Highway 40 on May 8 when he crossed the centerline into oncoming traffic and crashed. Officers said he was going 65 mph in a zone recommended for 30 mph. He died at the scene.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report