

Food that goes bad in fridge amounts to trillions of gallons of wasted water

By Karen Kaplan, Los Angeles Times

You walk into the grocery store with the best intentions, filling your cart with kale, broccolini, tofu and Greek yogurt. Then you get home, feel pressed for time and order a pizza.

Before you know it, the perishables are going bad at the back of the fridge. They'll wind up in the trash, like so many other well-intentioned meals that never came to be.

Your efforts to eat better have flopped again. But that's not your only fail. You've also squandered the natural resources used to produce that food and contributed to environmental degradation for nothing.

[Read the whole story](#)

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The Fair Political Practices Commission ruled that South Lake Tahoe Councilman Jason Collin accurately reported contributions and gifts related to the November 2016 election.
- Nevada Reads author Julie Buntin will be at the Minden Library on May 15 at 5:30pm to discuss her book "Marlena: A Novel."
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Living

With Fire Program, in partnership with the Nevada Division of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, urge Northern Nevada residents to bring their ornamental junipers, pines, rabbit brush, sagebrush and other woody vegetation to one of two locations to be chipped and disposed of for free on May 12, 8am-1pm. Locations are the area next to the Nevada Division of Forestry location at 885 Eastlake Blvd. in Washoe Valley and the lot adjacent to the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Fire Station 221, 11525 Red Rock Road in Silver Lake.

- Doug Read, who has served on the board of directors at Tahoe XC and Tahoe Cross-Country Ski Education Association for 19 years and as vice president for the past four years, has retired.

- A networking event for women business professionals organized by Truckee-Tahoe Women's Lawyers will be hosted at TrailRunner International May 23, at 5:30pm. Attendees are requested to RSVP to Dana McDonald at demac8@yahoo.com.

Opinion: Land use control key to Calif. housing crunch

By Dan Walters, CALmatters

The death of far-reaching – even revolutionary – legislation to facilitate housing development crystallized a conflict that's been simmering in California for decades: Who controls land use?

Based on “police powers” in the state Constitution, cities and counties have, for many decades, regulated how land may be

used. They do this most obviously by zoning it for specific purposes, such as residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural, with countless subcategories, but also by controlling specific projects within those zones.



Dan Walters

In theory, such regulation avoids incompatible uses. But there are enormous social and economic consequences as well, and it's a purely political process with a veneer of civic benefit but often with corrupt undertones.

Zoning and other land use tools also affect the "character" of a community, as opponents of specific projects often contend. But they also may reinforce its tendencies toward racial and economic segregation by ensuring that only those with higher incomes can afford to live there.

Local governments also have financial stakes in land-use decrees – by, for instance, maximizing land available for retail developments that generate sales taxes.

Historically, state government has taken a more or less hands-off attitude toward land use, even though its activities, such as building highways and water systems, have obviously affected how land is developed, or not. Indeed, one could argue with ample authority that the perennial wrangling over water has been a proxy war over land use.

Over the last several decades, however, the state has become more directly involved by requiring localities to have general plans to guide their development, by setting housing quotas

(although not really enforcing them until this year), by requiring more housing near transit lines to reduce greenhouse gases and by the creating powerful regional regulators such as the Coastal Commission and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Today, however, the state's ongoing, and ever-worsening, housing crisis has placed the land-use question on the front burner of political consciousness.

California, state officials say, needs to be building 180,000 new units of housing a year to keep up with population growth, replace housing that's lost to fire and old age and make a dent in the backlog. However, the state is scarcely meeting 60 percent of that goal and is particularly deficient in low- and moderate-income housing.

The biggest impediment to building more housing is resistance within local governments that control land use. City councils and other elected bodies reflect their voters' disdain for having more neighbors that would bring more traffic and other consequences of population growth, a syndrome especially virulent when it comes to high-density "affordable" projects.

It has a name: "not in my backyard," or NIMBY.

State Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, proposed to override local land use control with legislation to allow construction of up to five-story apartment buildings near major public transit stops, including areas zoned for single-family homes.

Local governments, labor unions and even some housing advocates lined up against Senate Bill 827, some contending it went too far and others saying it didn't go far enough. Ultimately, it received just four votes in its first committee hearing, far short of what it needed to advance.

SB827 may be dead, at least for the time being, but the underlying land-use question is very much alive.

It's highly unlikely that California can deal with its housing crisis unless it somehow overrides local authority over land use to blunt NIMBYism. But could it be done without also shifting the high-stakes, often smarmy political gaming over specific projects to Sacramento as well?

If not, the cure could be just as bad as the disease.

Dan Walters is a columnist at CALmatters.

Fanny Bridge project to start in May

Construction on the Highway 89-Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project in Tahoe City is expected to start May 1, with completion later this year.

The Central Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration is the lead agency for construction, with Martin Brothers Construction doing the work.

The project includes realignment of the highway, a new bridge over the Truckee River located east of the Caltrans Maintenance Yard along Highway 89 heading into Tahoe City from Truckee, three roundabouts, complete street improvements within the project area – new sidewalks, crosswalks, street lights, and street/trail signage, replacing Fanny Bridge with sidewalks and bike lanes on both sides, including a new bridge rail that will match the existing bridge rail, new and/or improved bike and pedestrian paths, and a Tahoe City gateway signage.

More study needed on Tahoe City firehouse redevelopment

After hearing two proposals for redeveloping the Tahoe City firehouse properties near Commons Beach in Tahoe City, the Placer County Board of Supervisors last week directed staff to further study the financial and development feasibility of the ideas.

The county-owned Tahoe City firehouse properties include the former North Tahoe Fire Station 51, Tahoe Community Center building and the former visitor center building.

Placer began searching for a partner to redevelop the properties in November.

The first proposal, The Commonwell, features a market hall concept similar to the Ferry Building in San Francisco, coupled with community amenities like an outdoor pool and waterfront amphitheater. It would also include seasonal lakeside retail, a plaza deck and ground-level parking underneath the project site.

The second proposal, Siren Arts at Tahoe City, features flexible-use performance space that could accommodate up to 250 people, combined with retail and exhibition galleries, artist studios and multi-use classrooms. It would also include a rooftop deck, kitchen, office space for local cultural non-profit organizations and workforce housing.

County staff applied for a \$250,000 Tahoe Tourism Master Plan

grant to cover the costs for further study of the projects' and site's financial feasibility.

Late winter storms bad omen for fire season

By Associated Press

The late winter storms that helped bolster Nevada's lagging snowpack also jump started the growth of grasses and brush that potentially could fuel another big wildfire season.

"I hate to use the term 'worst-case scenario,' but it's kind of leading into another potentially very active fire season," National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Smallcomb told Gov. Brian Sandoval Wednesday.

Smallcomb said the late precipitation push in March raised the snowpack from 36 percent of normal in February to 85 percent of normal as of March 27 at Tahoe.

Read the whole story

Essay contest open to STHS students

Unity at the Lake is sponsoring an essay contest for all students at South Tahoe High School.

The essay, titled "How I Make a Difference," should explore what these words mean to the student and how they have incorporated them or intend to incorporate them into their life.

Unity will select a winner from each grade level, with a cash prize of \$500 for each winning essay.

Essays should be between 400 and 600 words, double spaced with 14-point font, and emailed to unityatthelake@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for submission is May 15.

K's Kitchen: Manicotti with pesto and marinara

By Kathryn Reed

Sometimes comfort food is what's needed and calories should be ignored. When three types of cheeses are in a recipe you know it's not health food.

Still, as long as this is not something you eat on a regular basis, go for it.

In the past I've made manicotti with spinach as the only vegetable. I liked the carrots in it because it added a slight crunch as they aren't sautéed before being stuffed into the shells.

By using pesto it was not necessary to add garlic or basil.

As with many Italian dishes, it was even better the next day.



Vegetarian Manicotti with Pesto

1 box of manicotti noodles

1 medium yellow onion, chopped

2 medium carrots, minced

1 tsp olive oil

5 ounces fresh spinach

15 ounces ricotta cheese

1 C shredded Parmesan/Romano cheese blend

$\frac{1}{4}$ C pesto

2 C mozzarella, grated

Mix of black pepper, oregano, thyme

1 jar of marinara sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cook shells according to directions.

Pour half of the marinara sauce in 9 x 13 baking dish.

In bowl, mix ricotta, Parmesan, pesto, spinach, carrots, onions and spices. Stuff mixture into cooked shells. Place shells into pan. Cover the shells with the rest of the

marinara sauce. Then cover with mozzarella.

Bake for 30 minutes.

CTC has free firewood in Tahoe basin

The California Tahoe Conservancy is offering free firewood permits now through the end of the year.

The permits are available on the conservancy's **website**. Also on the website is a map of potential firewood collection locations.

Permits allow for collection of two cords of wood for personal use only.

On April 30 is a one day only firewood collection at the Van Sickle Bi-state Park. There are approximately 25-30 cords of firewood stacked and ready for collection. The gate will open at 9am and the wood will be first come first served until it is gone.

Travel gurus get a dose of leadership reality



Tina Sampson with Vail Resorts talks leadership to a group of travel experts. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – “High-functioning teams lead to high-performing organizations.”

That was one of the messages delivered by Tina Sampson, vice president of sales for Vail Resorts. She was a speaker this month at the Mountain Travel Symposium at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe. Her topic – Leadership for Innovation.

She was there to put a hammer to the belief that culture building should be considered “soft stuff.”

“We believe innovations begins with culture,” Sampson said of the Colorado-based company that has three ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area. “We believe superior financial performance is unlocked through leadership.”

She said that Vail Resorts CEO Rob Katz has said he is not striving to be the best ski or travel company, but instead is working to be the best leadership company in the world.

A title does not make one a leader. Leadership is a journey.

"You have to make a priority for this soft stuff," Sampson said.

Sampson had the group of more than 50 people answer 18 questions/statements related to their work teams with "rarely," "sometimes," or "usually." Questions ranged from: Morale is significantly impacted by the failure to achieve team goals to team members acknowledge their weaknesses/mistakes.

The scores indicated whether an area was probably not a problem for the team, could be a problem or an issue needs to be addressed.

"If you have high trust, you should have high conflict," Sampson said.

Sampson had a handout that said high-functioning teams are ones whose members:

- Trust one another on a fundamental, emotional level, and are comfortable being vulnerable with each other about their weaknesses, mistakes, fears, and behaviors.
- Use conflict as a catalyst.
- Share a strong sense of identity.
- Exercise superior levels of participation, cooperation, and collaboration in making decisions.
- Set aside their individual needs and agendas and focus almost exclusively on what is best for the team.
- Have high levels of personal and interpersonal mastery, resulting in high group emotional intelligence.