

Delta resumes nonstop Reno-Atlanta flights

By Jason Hidalgo, Reno Gazette-Journal

It's baaaaack.

Reno-Tahoe International Airport announced on Friday that Delta Air Lines is bringing back nonstop service between the Biggest Little City and Atlanta.

The airport definitely had Georgia in its mind as the announcement was made amid a backdrop of sweet tea, peaches and musicians playing Dixieland music. Andy Wirth, chairman of the Airport Board of Trustees, called the return of non-stop flights to the world's busiest airport a big deal, adding that Atlanta is the gateway to the South.

Read the whole story

2 concerts in SLT for Mother's Day

Tahoe Choir and Lake Tahoe Community College Chorus are putting on a concert this weekend titled A Mother's Day Gift of Song.

On May 6 at 7:30pm, they will perform in LTCC's Duke Theatre, and then on May 8 at 3pm at St. Theresa Church, 1041 Lyons Ave. in South Lake Tahoe.

Songs will range from joyful Renaissance madrigals, Vivaldi's

"Magnificat," to songs like the barbershop piece "Lida, Rose," the famous lullaby "The Little Horses," "Goodnight, my Angel" by Billy Joel, "What a Wonderful World," and other musical gems.

Performances will include guest string and oboe players, plus a children's choir.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors, and kids under 5 are free. They are available from any choir member, at the LTCC Bookstore, or one hour before showtime.

Calif. to give counties extra cash for election costs

By Jim Miller, Sacramento Bee

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation Friday that directs \$16.29 million to counties to help pay for expected high turnout in the June 7 presidential primary and to process a coming deluge of petitions from groups seeking to qualify November ballot measures, including one championed by the Democratic governor.

Assembly Bill 120's signing comes a few weeks after Secretary of State Alex Padilla alerted Brown to a "surge" of voter interest in the June election because of the high-profile Republican presidential primary.

As they plan for that, county election officials face the prospect of trying to verifying as many as 9.4 million petition signatures, Padilla wrote the governor.

Read the whole story

Nevada Parks to pile burn in Tahoe basin

During the first two weeks of May, the Nevada Division of State Lands and the Nevada Division of Forestry will be conducting a 2-acre prescribed burn in the Lake Tahoe Basin in the Rocky Point area along Tunnel Creek Road.

The burn will be completed in a 24-hour operational period.

The burn is part of ongoing fuels treatment and forest restoration efforts being conducted by the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team in the Lake Tahoe area. The goal of the project is to create a healthier forest and to make the area more resistant to catastrophic wildfire.

Tunnel Creek Road from the Ponderosa to the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park boundary may be closed temporarily in order to conduct the burn. Trail users can expect to see and smell smoke with reduced visibility, and encounter fire crews and fire equipment.

4 people accused of selling alcohol to minors

Four workers in South Lake Tahoe were cited Friday for allegedly selling alcohol to minors. The minor decoy operation on April 29 was under the direct supervision of officers. The youths attempted to purchase alcohol from 10 retail licensees in the city.

Cited were Nathaniel Asavedo at Safeway Gas, Transito Martinez at Chevron Gas, Shearon Cullins at Whiskey Dicks and Ricardo Espino at Chevy's restaurant.

They face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC could take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



Soroptimist

International of South Lake Tahoe awarded \$21,000 in scholarships to students from Lake Tahoe Community College, and South Tahoe and Whittell high schools. Standing from left are: Quinn Kixmiller, Alec Jobbins, Noah Solomon, Antonio Benitez, Martin Sanchez, Corynn Bricker, Hunter Turney; seated from left are: Zoe D'Angelo, Annie Buchser, Tatum Whatford, Kelsey Kjer, Kylee Lyons, Nicole Kruczynski, Gizeh Martinez, Nemesis Ramirez, Sabrina Green, Bailey Barcellos; kneeling from left: Charlene Jones and Mariah Olson. Not pictured: Sarah DeVore, Satchel Friedman and Katherine Krolicki.

- Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District board is having a public hearing May 14 at 8am regarding electricity and propane gas service charges. The meeting will be at the community services building, 33540 Loop Road, Kirkwood.

- The 13th annual Truckee Day street cleanup is June 4. Neighborhood check-in stations open at 8am. Be there early to get materials and a T-shirt. The townwide block party starts at noon at Truckee River Regional Park. Go **online** for more info.

- The Truckee Planning Commission recommended approval of a development permit for construction of 77 apartments in the Truckee Artist Lofts, as well as minor

amendments to the Railyard Master Plan. The Town Council will be acting on those recommendations on May 10.

Washoe County Sheriff's Department has a free app that allows people to report illegal dumping.

Amodei says group miscast him among anti-parks gang

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

A Congressman whose district covers huge swaths of public land in Northern Nevada says he doesn't deserve to be lumped in with 19 other lawmakers accused of driving an anti-parks agenda.

Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Carson City, was one of two federal lawmakers from the Silver State the Center for American Progress, a progressive group, identified as Congress' "Anti-parks caucus."

Rep. Crescent Hardy, R-Mesquite, was the other Nevadan on the list. Hardy spokesman Jacob Fullmer said Hardy also objected to being labeled anti-public land.

The report, titled "The Rise to Power of the Congressional Anti-parks Caucus," seeks to tie votes and statements from 20 Republican members of the House of Representatives and Senate to actions by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his sons, Ryan and Ammon Bundy.

Read the whole story

‘Paper Tigers’ coming to S. Lake Tahoe

El Dorado County Mental Health in South Lake Tahoe is offering two free showings of the film “Paper Tigers.”

The film demonstrates how one person can intervene and change the outcome of a young person’s life. It highlights how toxic stress can have a significant impact on the developing mind and can lead to issues such as substance abuse, academic difficulties, depression and suicide. The film follows a year in the life of several students at an alternative high school in Washington and how the school radically changed its approach to helping students.

There will be a discussion following the film.

The film will be shown:

- May 11 at 7pm at South Tahoe High School. Doors open at 6:30pm. The event is expected to end at approximately 9:30pm.
- May 20 at 7pm in the Duke Theater at Lake Tahoe Community College. Doors open at 6:30pm. The event is expected to end at approximately 9:30pm.

The film is appropriate for older teens, parents, school staff, community members, and anyone who interacts with adolescents and young adults.

Commerce tax repeal before Nevada Supreme Court

By Michelle Rindels, AP

A high-stakes battle over a new business tax passed last year by the Nevada Legislature is heading to the Nevada Supreme Court today.

Justices will consider the fate of a proposed ballot measure to repeal the commerce tax, which applies to businesses that make more than \$4 million each year in Nevada revenue. A Carson City judge ruled a few months ago that the petition language passes legal muster, clearing the way for supporters to gather the more than 55,000 signatures they'll need to qualify it for the November ballot.

"I think we'll pass with flying colors," said Nevada state Controller Ron Knecht, a Republican who's leading the charge against the tax.

But while he's bullish on the petition's chances of surviving the court appeal, an all-volunteer signature-gathering effort is another story. With a June 21 deadline approaching, Knecht said, the "RIP Commerce Tax" petition had about 20,000 signatures, and not all signatures are expected to pass a verification stage.

While the effort has traction in rural counties, Knecht said it's having more trouble in the urban areas. That could be fatal for the petition because more than 13,000 signatures must be gathered from each of the four congressional districts – two of which are entirely contained within urban Clark County.

"We've done just awesomely well in the other 15 counties," Knecht said. "We've had some organization in Washoe and Clark.

We're focusing on turning that into a juggernaut in the next few weeks."

Knecht argues that the Republican-led Legislature went against the will of the voters when it approved a \$1.4 billion tax package last spring, less than a year after Nevadans overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure imposing a margins tax. But Gov. Brian Sandoval and casino executives who opposed the tax on the ballot lined up in favor of the commerce tax during the legislative session, saying it's more nuanced and much smaller than the margins tax.

Sandoval presented the tax package as a way to fund targeted improvements to the state's dismally ranked public school system. Economic development officials testified that businesses that were otherwise attracted to Nevada wouldn't relocate to the state because of its schools.

"There is no doubt that what happens in our schools today will determine the future of Nevada," Sandoval said. "That is why a supermajority of the Legislature and I made a generational investment in the children of Nevada."

The commerce tax brings in about \$60 million a year when offsets are counted. It's the smallest part of the three-pronged tax package, which included more lucrative moves such as raising a payroll tax rate and permanently extending temporary taxes.

Knecht said the state will hardly miss the money if the tax goes away. Sandoval said schools are already counting on the money and axing it could defund new initiatives including autism therapy, an all-day kindergarten expansion and career training programs.

"It's about time the Controller looked a child or parent in the eyes and justify the devastating cuts to Nevada's schools he seeks to implement through his petition," the governor said.

The effort to preserve the tax has more financial firepower, reporting more than \$242,000 at the end of last year. Funders include major casinos, who are subject to the commerce tax but see it as a more palatable tax than other alternatives.

RIP Commerce Tax reported raising about \$13,000 last year, including donations from individuals, \$5,000 from Boulder City-based "Domain.com" and a \$5,000 loan from conservative Las Vegas City Councilman Bob Beers. Knecht estimated that fundraising was now in the "high five figures," but it still hasn't been enough to hire signature gatherers who could potentially speed up the process.

Groups that have opposed the repeal effort include the Elko Area Chamber, while the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce is endorsing incumbent Republican lawmakers who supported the tax and are now facing tough primaries from anti-tax candidates.

The nonpartisan Nevada Taxpayers Association is also opposing the proposed ballot measure, even though they haven't taken a position on the merits of the commerce tax itself. The group is concerned about the measure making it to the ballot because if voters say they don't want to repeal the tax, it will be locked into the statute as-is, inaccessible to legislators and with no changes possible without another statewide ballot question.

"Generally, lawmaking by referendum is a bad idea," said Anna Thornley, president of the association. "There are people whose job it is to advocate for sound, reasonable policies."

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Peeps

Peeps is a sweet 10 month old girl. She likes other cats and dogs. She is a bit shy in the shelter, but will probably warm up quickly in a home.

She was brought to Tahoe from another shelter when they ran out of space.

Peeps is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, 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