Genoa trail system to open next weekend

The grand opening of the 16-mile Genoa Trail System is May 12 from 10-11am.

This free event is at the Eagle Ridge Trailhead, located near the green water tank, about 1.8 miles north of Genoa off of Jacks Valley Road on Eagle Ridge Road.

Carson Valley Trails Association member Jeremy Vlcan will brief guests about the new trails.

Informational displays and maps will be available. After the briefing, guests are invited to participate in a 4-mile guided hike from Eagle Ridge to Sierra Canyon.

The Genoa Trail System was funded by a Nevada Division of State Lands Question 1 grant.

For more information, go online.

Time to make residences fire safe

Now that the snow has melted, it is a good time to take a walk around your house to look for any damage that icicles may have caused.



Be sure to check the gas meter and any other utility lines that may have been damaged.

It’s time to begin cleaning up any loose debris on your roof, gutters, and around your property, such as pine needles, pine cones, and dead vegetation.

Be sure to store any snow removal equipment properly, and get your chimney and your furnace cleaned.

The South Lake Tahoe Fire Department wants to thank you for making your property fire safe.

– Sallie Ross-Filgo, SLTFD

Truckee area horse camp has classes for all abilities, ages

This summer, Piping Rock’s equestrian camp will give children the opportunity to connect with horses and nature under the supervision of a CHA certified trainer. The instruction at Piping Rock Equestrian Center develops a comprehensive understanding of horses through an array of unmounted activities, including grooming, hoof care and lunging.



Camp sessions will be offered in one week increments from June 18 through Aug. 24.

For more information about camp levels, session times, and enrollment fees go online or call (530) 582.6780.

O’Rourke packing bags for Washington

By Kathryn Reed

South Lake Tahoe City Manager Tony O’Rourke expects to be on the city’s payroll through July 1, with his first day as city manager of Yakima, Wash., the following day.

“It’s difficult to depart, but I’m looking forward to the opportunities and challenges,” O’Rourke told *Lake Tahoe News*.



Tony O'Rourke

The Yakima council on May 8 voted 5-1 to approve O’Rourke’s

contract. He will be making $175,000 – the same salary he has in Tahoe.

According to the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, the councilman who voted no to the contract supports O'Rourke, just not the six months of severance pay he would get if voters approve a switch to a strong mayor form of government. O'Rourke had a nine month severance clause in his contract here.

O'Rourke said he has vacation time left on the books so it's possible he will not be at his desk through June.

At the May 15 City Council meeting the Tahoe electeds are expected to appoint an interim city manager and discuss the recruitment process for a permanent leader.

"The headhunter approach has been put out there, but I'm not sure that's the best way, but I also don't know," Mayor Claire Fortier told *Lake Tahoe News*.

She said the discussion next Tuesday will be in open session. Fortier said the council wants someone on board sooner rather than later.

Another component to the hiring is that the terms for Councilmen Bruce Grego and Hal Cole are up in December after the Nov. 6 election. Grego has indicated he plans to seek another term, while Cole has not decided.

Tahoe Resources listed on

NYSE, rings opening bell

By Kellene Stockwell, Channel 2 News

A local mining company celebrated its stock going public by ringing the opening bell at the New Stock Exchange on Tuesday.

Tahoe Resources Inc. is already listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange as THO. It’s listed as TAHO on the NYSE, and is a member of the S&P/TSX Composite and TSX Global Mining indices.

The company’s president and CEO Kevin McArthur says he’s happy to bring shares to the U.S. market to widen their shareholder base.

Read the whole story

STHS Sober Grad Night needs volunteers, donations

South Tahoe High School’s Sober Grad Night is June 8 at 9pm to June 9 at 4am at the California Lodge at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

Volunteers are needed for the event.

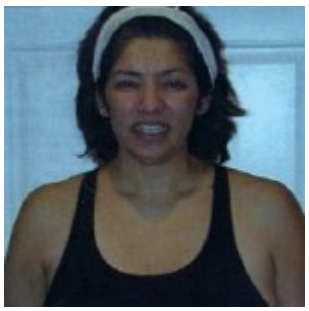
Organizers also say raffle donations and monetary donations are needed. They may be mailed to: Sober Grad Force, P.O. Box 17001, S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

Contact Joanne Marchesseault for further information at (530)577.5552 or jwmarche@cs.com.

S. Tahoe woman a finalist on national weight loss show

“Thin City” is the destination Stella Ortega wanted to reach.

And the South Lake Tahoe woman did. The Barton Health employee is one of 10 finalists on the “The Dr. Oz Show” who could win $1 million. The winner will be announced on the TV program May 23.





Stella Ortega, left, before the weight loss program; above is after the program.

Since the health challenge launched Sept. 26 more than 1.2 million people have registered for the seven-step program that transforms their overall health. A weigh-in with Weight

Watchers is required at the start and finish of the program.

People have until May 13 to vote for the winner via the website.

Click here to read more about Ortega.

Barton Foundation looking for golf players

The 18th annual Barton Foundation Golf Tournament is June 29 at Genoa Lakes Golf Course.

The 9am start is a shotgun scramble.

Cost is $150 per person. The Community Health Endowment Fund of the Barton Foundation is the beneficiary.

For more information, call (530) 543.5909.

Suggestions in changing Wildlife Services range from new practices to outright

bans

By Tom Knudson, Sacramento Bee

Like many ranchers, Bill Jensen drives a pickup, shoots a high-powered rifle and loves to talk about sheep, cattle and the outdoors.

But unlike many ranchers, he no longer relies on the federal government for predator control.

Nor does the Marin County rancher have a choice. Ten years ago Marin, known for its environmental activism, halted lethal federal control and launched a program emphasizing nonlethal methods. Jensen, initially skeptical, has turned the program into a success with miles of electric fencing.

“We’ve pretty much learned how to control coyotes on our own,” said Jensen, whose losses to coyotes have declined 60 percent to 70 percent – from about 50 lambs a year when a federal trapper worked there to 15 to 20 today. “Anything that can help you 24 hours a day, like electric fencing, is a good thing.”

What’s happening in Marin County shows that ranchers can co-exist with predators without lethal federal control. It is part of a broader and varied spirit of reform aimed at finding new, less destructive ways to live with predators and other wildlife.

The target of that effort – a little-known division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture called Wildlife Services – has long specialized in destroying animals considered to be a threat to agriculture, the public and the environment.

Since 2006, employees have trapped, shot and poisoned more than a half million coyotes and other predators, along with 300-plus other species, from non-native starlings and pigeons

to red-tailed hawks, prairie dogs, beaver and other native birds and mammals. In the process, they have also accidentally killed more than 50,000 non-target animals, from domestic dogs to golden eagles to black bears.

“People want to see bears. They want to see wolves. They want to see mountain lions. It’s part of the natural heritage of the United States,” said Michael Mares, president of the American Society of Mammalogists. “We should be stewards of the system, not wiping out species and damaging ecosystems.”

Ideas for reform include more nonlethal control, curtailing aerial gunning, a ban on traps, snares and cyanide poison and pouring more resources into controlling invasive species. Some critics are calling for an investigation of Wildlife Services’ trapping practices and perhaps eliminating the agency altogether.

“As a fiscal conservative and a budget hawk, why is the taxpayer paying for this?” said Rep. John Campbell, a Republican from Irvine and one of the agency’s leading critics.

“We’re in a period in which everything in the budget is being looked at,” Campbell said. “Here we have a program that is not very effective, has a number of unintended consequences and costs millions of dollars.”

Many, of course, do not support change, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, which represents more than 6 million farmers and ranchers nationwide. “They provide a lot of valuable services,” Richard Krause, senior director of congressional relations for the federation, said of Wildlife Services.

“They help control predators and pests that cause millions of dollars in damage to agricultural producers every year, from crops to livestock,” Krause said. “We support the idea of what Wildlife Services does.”

Read the whole story

Study: Travelers not interested in paying higher taxes, fees

By Bonnie Eslinger, Palo Alto Daily News

A nationwide survey of convention, trade show and meeting industry professionals concludes they would have second thoughts about holding an event in the Bay Area if San Mateo County voters approve June 5 ballot measures that would raise the hotel tax and start taxing commercial parking lot and car rental businesses in unincorporated areas, as well as at San Francisco International Airport.

The poll, conducted by the U.S. Travel Association, says that more than 40 percent of 366 respondents would “definitely” search for a new meeting destination or “reconsider” holding their next meeting or event in the Bay Area, according to a press release the organization released Thursday. In addition, 25 percent said they would have to cut back on their meeting expenses if they held an event in the region.

U.S. Travel Association COO Geoff Freeman said there’s a tipping point, even for popular destinations, when tourism professionals can’t justify spending more there than in other locations fighting for their dollars. That’s how New York lost some of its travel business he said.

San Mateo County is showing a “pure disregard for visitors,” Freeman said. Asked why the association got involved in the

county’s affairs, Freeman said it has been keeping an eye and ear out in recent years for such taxes, which have become more common in the current economy.

The Board of Supervisors voted in February to place the tax measures on the June ballot.

Read the whole story