

Occupation on ballot makes a difference with voters

Updated April 2, 12:05pm: Assemblywoman Beth Gaines may call herself a small business owner on the ballot per Sacramento Superior Court Judge Michael P. Kenny's ruling today.

By Jim Sanders, Sacramento Bee

What are the most high-stakes, second-guessed, agonized-over words since "I do?"

For California politicians, it's the three-word description that voters will read in the polling booth before making up their minds.

"It's valuable real estate in a campaign," said Paul Mitchell, a Democratic strategist.

Tension over ballot titles played out last week in Sacramento when lawsuits were filed challenging the designations of Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, R-Rocklin, and San Joaquin County congressional candidate Jose Hernandez, a Democrat.

Hernandez, who rode in the shuttle Discovery three years ago, won use of "astronaut/scientist/engineer." Although Hernandez left NASA in January 2011, a judge said it was not misleading to voters.

Gaines' use of "small business owner" will be decided today. Her opponent thinks it doesn't reflect the state lawmaker's primary occupation.

The stakes are high. In a fast-paced society where not all Californians are familiar with political candidates, voters may side with the person whose occupation impresses them most – or offends them least.

Read the whole story

STHS reschedules final performance of play

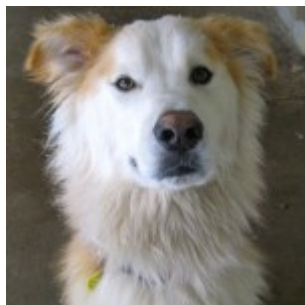
The final performance of the play “The Royal Family” is tonight at South Tahoe High School.

The Saturday show was canceled because of the snowstorm.

Monday’s performance begins at 7pm. Tickets are available at the door starting at 6pm. They are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, free with Super ASB card and PABA coupons. The high school at 1735 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Kona is a super sweet and mellow Alaskan Husky-Golden retriever mix with beautiful coloring.



You might think he's older because he's very calm when you first meet him, but he is only 2 years old.

Kona is house trained, very good with children of all ages, and he loves to play with other dogs. He has even lived with a cat.

Kona is is neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. He 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 online to see photos and description 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

Bicycle group singles out two-wheel advocates

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition handed out awards recently to bring attention and recognition to those who have contributed to the advancement of bicycling in the region.

2010 recipients are:

Individual: Gary Bell

Business: Northstar

Organization: Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board

Agency: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization

2011 recipients are:

Individual: John Upton

Business: Lake Tahoe Media Group

Organization: Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association

Agency: U.S. Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Firefighters raising money for burn programs

South Lake Tahoe firefighters will be on street corners April 6-7 for the annual Fill the Boot for Burns campaign.

Off-duty firefighters will be shaking their turnout boots and collecting donations to raise money to support burn prevention and recovery programs in Northern and Central California.

They will be near Safeway and Highway 50 and Park Avenue on April 6 from 4-9pm and April 7 from noon-8pm.

Opinion: Brown is not looking out for the environment

By Huey D. Johnson, Sacramento Bee

Once upon a time, when I was Gov. Jerry Brown's Resources secretary, his office was all about the moon; now it's narrow economics that have taken over. While the governor deserves being seen as a good leader with a tough fiscal burden, it is no excuse to let the environment go down the drain. Our precious resource assets include forests, parks, air and soil, to name a few factors that make California a world-class place to live. No issue is as important as water for the future of our state.

The governor's failure to make appointments robs the public of progressive management of our resources. There is not even a director of Water Resources and there are far too many vacancies across numerous departments to list here. If Brown had a strong, informed environment adviser in his office he could catch up and complete all the appointments in two hours.

There are a number of issues showing decline. The Department of Parks is especially off kilter. The director, a Schwarzenegger appointment, is trying to turn over some public parkland to double the size of a golf course at Lake Tahoe. Wall Street's Goldman Sachs is the likely developer.

What's the huge issue threatening California's future quality

of life and survival? Water, of course, the basis of life. For a state that has been so progressive, the antiquated, corrupt water matters are unbelievable.

Huey D. Johnson, former state secretary of Resources, is president of Resource Renewal Institute.

Read the whole story

Truckee Donner water-electric rates not increasing

The board of the Truckee Donner Public Utility District, which provides the greater Truckee area with water and power services, has voted not to increase rates for the next two years.

“Stable and competitive rates are the bricks and mortar for any economic recovery or development in our community.” said Jeff Bender, TDPUD board member, said in a prepared statement. “The last thing our community needs is rapidly escalating energy and water costs that hurt businesses and take money away from families.”

The TDPUD’s recent renewable energy purchases have positioned the district to address current and future regulations.

Information regarding the TDPUD’s performance and projections was presented in a series of board meetings covering operating budgets, resource planning, and financial master planning.

For additional information, call the TDPUD at (530)582.3951.

Late-season powder day provides fun on the slopes

By Kathryn Reed

Mother Nature played a bit of a joke on Lake Tahoe with April Fools' Day being one of the best ski days of the season. She must be laughing, knowing that it will be in the 50s for the next two days.

Ski season in Tahoe has been spastic at best.



Sue Wood makes fresh tracks April 1 at Heavenly. Photos/Kathryn

Reed

For Dan Barker, his first day on skis this season was Sunday.

"I drove through in January to Vegas and the skis never came out of the truck," Barker said as he rode up the Sky chairlift at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

He and his son, Sean (who worked at Heavenly two seasons ago), came down from Poulsbo, Wash., to get more than a week of skiing in.

With Heavenly receiving between 1 and 1½ feet of snow, there was plenty for the duo to schuss through. Most resorts in the greater Lake Tahoe area sent out alerts Sunday morning about having received nearly 18 inches of white stuff overnight.

But it wasn't all fun Sunday. Kirkwood Mountain Resort had an inbounds avalanche on the back side of Vista. No one was injured, but the lifts closed in the afternoon in order to secure the mountain.

"(Sunday) was challenging with rising temps and the new snow," the resort posted on its Facebook page.

Even the resort's website says, "Kirkwood is a Class A (most dangerous) avalanche area. Our Ski Patrol Team works tirelessly to ensure the resort is safe to ski. Please observe and respect our ski area and avalanche closure boundaries."

A March 17 inbound avi at Kirkwood sent one person to Barton Memorial Hospital.

With the fluctuating temperatures and more snow forecast for the end of the week, slopes will be unstable. The Sierra Avalanche Center rates the danger each day.

At Homewood Mountain Resort a power outage was the issue. It meant no skiing. But think of all that untracked powder that will be available today.

While at lake level people were shoveling upwards of a foot of snow in the morning, by the afternoon it was hard to know there were blizzard conditions 24 hours earlier.

Despite all the freshies, the lift lines mid-morning and into the afternoon at Heavenly were minimal. The line for fries at Tamarack Lodge about 1pm was non-existent.

People seem to have moved onto other activities just as the snow on the slopes has become so inviting.

While last year it was “the winter that would never end”, this year it’s “the winter that never quite was”.

Another phrase often used in the basin, “If you don’t like the weather, wait five minutes, it will change” seems so appropriate. Part of Sunday was like a blizzard at Heavenly Mountain Resort, while later in the day the sunscreen needed to be applied.

Conditions on the mountain are all over the board. Awesome powder off the Galaxy chairlift had everyone in the trees whooping it up. The sketchy conditions on Liz’s provoked four-letter words. Slick spots were disconcerting, especially as it continued to snow. Later in the day slushy spots slowed everyone down.

It’s been that kind of season for skiers and snowboarders in Lake Tahoe – from one extreme to the other, with little consistency.

All the resorts finally have plenty of coverage – but only a few weeks are left before the lifts stop spinning until next season. Mid-April is the normal closing time. But plenty of events still fill the calendar – just check out your resort of choice to see what will be taking place in the coming weeks.

And while the ski season is just about over, the season for deals on next year’s season pass is well under way. This is

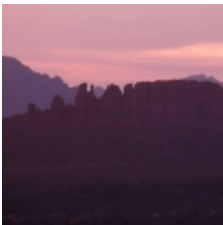
the time of year to lock in the best rate on next year's pass.

But, really, maybe it's time to admit it's the season to see if there is air in the bike tires.

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2 people correctly name the location of this photo

Lynn Kahn and Heather Cade know their geography.



Sedona

They knew that this photo was taken in Sedona. For their knowledge, each will be the recipient of a *Lake Tahoe News* T-shirt.

Thank you to everyone who answered the question.

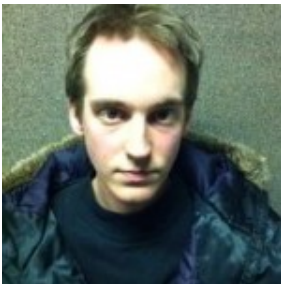
For more photos about Sedona, check out this story.

South Tahoe grad accused of robbing hometown bank

Three days after the Wells Fargo Bank inside the Raley's near Stateline was robbed, a South Lake Tahoe man was arrested.

Officers said Joshua Schauert, 26, was identified shortly after the March 29 robbery, with a warrant being issued that day.

Schauert on April 1 reportedly listed a computer for sale on Craigslist. Undercover officers met him at the Valero gas station in South Tahoe on Sunday afternoon. The South Tahoe High School graduate was arrested at the scene.



Joshua
Schauert

Detectives are looking into whether the computer was stolen.

As of Sunday night, none of the cash that was stolen had been recovered. Officers are not disclosing how much was taken from the bank.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report