Concert to benefit Sierra Nevada Alliance

On March 31 at the American Legion in South Lake Tahoe dance into spring with Bison and the Smugglin Hooch Jug Band.

This is a benefit for the Sierra Nevada Alliance.

Suggested donation is $10.

Event starts at 7:30pm.

For more information, email Carissa@sierranevadaalliance.org.

Learn about Tahoe weather while raising money for TC X Country Ski Area

Lake Tahoe weather historian Mark McLaughlin will talk about this winter's wild and wacky weather and where it stands historically at a fundraiser for Tahoe City Cross Country Ski Area.

McLaughlin will also be selling and autographing his two ski books, the double award-winning "Longboards to Olympics: A Century of Tahoe Winter Sports" and his newly released "Skiing at Lake Tahoe". Both books will be discounted to $20 each, payable by cash or check. After the presentation chef Douglas Dale will cook up a three-course meal.

The event is March 31 from 6-8:30pm.

Limited tickets are available at $85 per person. This is an evening out for adults.

All money raised benefits. Reservations can be made at Tahoe Cross Country Ski Area or can be purchased by calling (530) 583.5475. The event is at the yurt at the ski center.

Nevada seeks comment on Tahoe state park plan

The Nevada Division of State Parks is starting the planning process for updating the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park’s general management plan and is seeking public input on planning issues, user needs and potential park management or development opportunities.

The first public workshop is March 21 from 6 to 8:30pm at the PEBP multipurpose room in the Richard H. Bryan Building at 901 South Stewart St. It will begin at 6pm with a presentation on the planning approach, followed by issues and comments with state park staff.

Contact Jay Howard for more information: (775) 831.0494, ext. 229.

California, Nevada lead in job recovery

By Steve Matthews, Bloomberg

Arizona, California, Florida and Nevada – the states that were most hurt in the real estate collapse over the past five years – are now leading the U.S. labor market expansion.

The four states added 222,100 jobs from August through December, accounting for 28 percent of the increase in U.S. employment in that period, according to Labor Department figures. Their outperformance may continue, say economists at Moody's Analytics Inc. and IHS Global Insight.

Households in the "sand states," whose homes have lost on average half of their value since the 2006 peak in the housing bubble, are healing after cutting debt and bolstering their net worth, said Jan Hatzius, chief economist at Goldman Sachs Group Inc., yesterday in an interview in New York. Their stabilization may signal a broader improvement by U.S. consumers that supports a faster expansion in employment growth.

"There has been a whole lot of balance sheet improvement," said James Paulsen, who helps oversee more than $330 billion as chief investment strategist in Minneapolis for Wells Capital Management. "Even the places that were ground zero for the 2008 financial crisis are coming back to life. Things are starting to pop a little again."

Read the whole story

Puddle of Mudd

Puddle of Mudd will be at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on April 28 at 7:30pm.

Tickets for the 21 and older show are $38. Call 800.786.8208.

Los Lobos

Los Lobos will be at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on April 21 at 7:30pm.

Tickets for this 21 and older show are $35. Call 800.786.8208.

Mixed verdict for American River canyon restaurant owner

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

An El Dorado County jury on Thursday found embattled restaurateur Kevin Cairns not guilty of any of the three felonies with which he had been charged, but did convict him on five misdemeanor counts,

The mixed verdict was the conclusion of a weeklong trial in which Cairns, who ran a restaurant east of Pollock Pines on Highway 50, was accused of assaulting people in his parking lot on multiple occasions beginning in November 2010.

Cairns acknowledged shaking a stick at one car of people, throwing a traffic cone at another and yelling at a third until they left, but denied his behavior was illegal.

The jury found Cairns not guilty of felony assault in two of the cases, but found him guilty of misdemeanor assaults.

Likewise, jurors found him not guilty of felony vandalism, for striking a truck with a stick, but guilty of misdemeanor vandalism.

Cairns was also convicted of misdemeanors of disturbing the peace and exhibiting a deadly weapon, the stick he had brandished.

Those convictions carry possible sentences of up to a year in jail.

Read the whole story

Snowboarder dies at China Peak resort

By Alex Tavlian, Fresno Bee

A 30-year-old man died at China Peak Ski Resort after falling head-first into deep snow on the slopes, resort officials said Sunday.

The man was snowboarding alone on one of the slopes when he fell head-first into deep snow and suffocated, China Peak owner and general manager Tim Cohee said. Another visitor to the resort saw the base of the man’s snowboard sticking out of the snow and pulled him out a few minutes after he fell in.

“It’s tragic,” Cohee said. “You have to be careful in this snowfall. That’s why we always tell people to go with a buddy.”

The death is the first of the year at China Peak, he said. A similar accident occurred at the resort last year, in which another snowboarder fell into deep snow head-first.

Sheriff’s deputies are investigating the accident, Fresno County Sheriff’s Lt. John Reynolds said. The Fresno County Coroner’s Office was also dispatched to the resort.

K’s Kitchen: Muffins so tasty they are good to snack on

By Kathryn Reed

Breakfast is not my favorite meal to eat or fix. But for some reason when it’s fixed for me, whatever is on the plate seems to taste better. Maybe that’s because it’s not my usual cup of coffee and banana.



When I was in the Bay Area earlier this year staying with friends because I had a meeting that needed writing about the next day it was much like staying at a bed and breakfast. (I also got dinner. Thank you Carol and Ben.)

Carol was much like a second mom to me growing up. While I don’t see her as often now that mom doesn’t live nearby, we still keep in touch mostly via email.

She was even more generous by sending me home with a large baggy full of these morsels. They are great to eat anytime of day. But right out of the oven with a little butter is the best.

All the comments below are from Carol.

Empire State Muffins

(From Carol Shuey with adaptations from original recipe from Rachel Kukuk.)

Note: *Cranberries never seem to be in season when I make this recipe. I've tried using frozen ones, but that wasn't very successful. I now use dried cranberries (Craisins). I take about ¾ cup of them, put in a bowl of water and let soak for about half hour and then I drain and chop or cut them up. If you do this first thing when you are getting ready to start making this recipe, they will almost have soaked long enough by the time you get the apples, carrots, walnuts and other ingredients ready.*

2 C shredded unpeeled apples

1½ C sugar (I greatly reduce this to 1 cup or even ¾ cup)

1 C chopped cranberries

1 C shredded carrots

1 C walnuts, chopped (I reduce to ½ cup)

2½ C flour

1T baking powder

2 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

2 tsp cinnamon (I use 1 tsp)

2 eggs

¼ C oil

¼ C orange juice concentrate (I have used just ¼ cup regular OJ and it is OK, but using the concentrate would give a stronger orange flavor probably.)

Combine apples and sugar; gently fold in cranberries, carrots and nuts. Combine dry ingredients and add to bowl. Mix well. Add oil, juice and eggs.

Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes. If using small muffins tins, bake for 15-20 minutes.

Yield: Small muffins yield approximately six dozen.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

Shortbread is a friendly, young tiger-striped tabby cat who was abandoned at the shelter.



She is a sweet girl who seems to get along with everyone.

Shortbread is spayed, microchipped, 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 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