Barton Ranch decision delayed one month

Buildings on the old Barton Ranch in South Lake Tahoe will stay – at least for another month.

The South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission on May 8 agreed to staff's recommendation to delay a vote on whether the buildings should be razed.

As *Lake Tahoe News* reported last month, the owners want to get rid of the structures, but don't know what they want to do with the property.

Lake Tahoe Historical Society is reaching out to the Mosher family to see if there is a way to preserve this segment of South Shore history.

Money is the main stumbling block.

While the city first said a negative declaration for CEQA was protocol, in reality it is a mitigated declaration. A plaque acknowledging the history of the property and a report on its local significance are required.

The commission is expected to discuss the issue again at its June 12 meeting.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Letter: S. Tahoe Library is a

well-used resource

To the community,

At the very bottom of your sample or absentee ballot for the June 3 primary election, you will see Measure L, which provides for a parcel tax which can be used only to support the South Lake Tahoe Library. It cannot be used for any other purpose.

Some background is in order. By 1994, because of state-mandated changes in the way counties could spend general funds, the number of days our library was open had dwindled to two days a week. In 1995, voters approved a small parcel tax, renewed in 2005, to support the South Lake Tahoe Library. For almost 20 years, our library has been open five days a week with sufficient funds and staffing to purchase new books and other materials, provide research assistance and present numerous programs for community members of all ages.

Now, in the 21st century, our library offers not only print resources, but a full range of downloadable books and popular magazines in multiple formats, on-site computers with Internet, and other exciting innovations. Patrons may access free online resources, such as encyclopedias, law books, auto repair reference manuals, and business development sites. In addition, online programs to strengthen job skills, prepare for tests and learn another language are available. All of these online resources are free and may be used from home as well as the library. Strong support for the children of our community has continued. In addition to in-the-library programs for youth ranging from toddlers to teens, parents may check out a variety of kits featuring books and early learning materials.

As a result of the many resources available, our library is heavily used. Out of a total of 18,000-plus active library

cards, over 14,000 belong to local residents. 130,000-plus books were checked out in 2012, a 23 percent increase over the previous 10 years. People are standing at the door when the library opens waiting for the computers and they are in use all day long.

The funding for this major community resource will soon expire. Measure L is not a new tax. Rather, for $20 per year, it will maintain the funding that has supported this major community resource. Increases will be based on the Consumer Price Index and cannot exceed 3 percent per year. The tax will last for 12 years, at which time the voters can re-evaluate in the light of then-existing conditions.

As community members, we will be making an important choice on June 3. Do we preserve our vibrant, full-service library by voting yes on Measure L? Or will we let the opportunity pass and revert to a branch much reduced in hours and services? I hope you will join me in voting yes on Measure L.

Kay Henderson, president South Lake Tahoe Friends of the Library and chair for the Committee for South Lake Tahoe Library – Measure L

South Lake Tahoe

Diversity lacking among U.S. teachers

By Jesse J. Holland, AP

U.S. teachers are nowhere near as diverse as their students.

Almost half the students attending public schools are

minorities, yet fewer than 1 in 5 of their teachers is nonwhite.

New studies from the Center for American Progress and the National Education Association are calling attention to this "diversity gap" at elementary and secondary schools in the United States. The groups want more to be done to help teachers more accurately mirror the students in their classrooms.

Teachers are always pushing their students to excel, said Kevin Gilbert, coordinator of teacher leadership and special projects for the Clinton Public School District in Clinton, Miss.

It becomes easier for students to believe "when they can look and see someone who looks just like them, that they can relate to," said Gilbert, a member of the NEA's executive committee. "Nothing can help motivate our students more than to see success standing right in front of them."

More than minority students would benefit from a more diverse teacher corps, said Ulrich Boser, the author of the center's report.

"Even in a place like North Dakota, where the students aren't particularly diverse relative to the rest of the country, it's important for our social fabric, for our sense as a nation, that students are engaging with people who think, talk and act differently than them but can also be just as effective at raising student achievement in the classroom," he said.

There were about 3.3 million teachers in American public elementary and secondary schools in 2012, according to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics. It said 82 percent were white, 8 percent were Hispanic, 7 percent were black and about 2 percent were Asian.

Students are a different story. In 1993, minority students

made up 31 percent of the public school population; it was 41 percent in 2003.

The Center for American Progress' most recent statistics show 48 percent of the students in public schools are nonwhite – 23 percent Hispanic, 16 percent black and 5 percent Asian – and that percentage is expected to continue to increase.

"We project that this fall, for the first time in American history, the majority of public school students in America will be nonwhite," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said last week.

Hispanics have passed blacks as the largest minority group of teachers, just as there are more Hispanic students than African-Americans in the public school system. This tracks with the increases in the number of Hispanics in the United States, with Latinos the largest minority group in the country and the fastest-growing.

Jan Alderson, a science teacher at Shawnee Mission South High School in Overland Park, Kansas, saw the changes at her school.

"We have very few teachers of minority background yet we've gone to about 40 percent minority population," said Alderson, who was inducted into the National Teacher Hall of Fame this past week. "It's a beautiful blending, it's just teachers who don't have that cultural background, I think just that there are more issues."

Teaching used be one of the only professions African-American college graduates could aspire to and make decent money, said LaRuth Gray, scholar-in-residence at the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools at New York University.

But as the county integrated and other professions opened their ranks, education lost its "cachet" and fewer African-

American students thought about becoming teachers, she said.

“It’s not seen as the ideal careers to have, and so therefore our youngsters, our black children tend to move in other directions,” said Gray, who also serves as a government liaison for the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

It will take political will to change those numbers, advocates say. Most states already have programs and policies intended to increase the number of minority teachers, “but the yield of new teachers of color is disappointing,” the NEA report said.

Water normal, no criminal inquiry into sewage spill

By Kathryn Reed

The latest bacteria results from Tahoe Keys Marina show normal levels.

“The results show concentrations of fecal coliform bacteria that represents typical surface waters of this nature,” Lauri Kemper, deputy director Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, said in a statement.

The May 7 samples are the last Lahontan intends to take. However, this does not mean the investigation is over.

Lahontan is continuing to work with El Dorado County Environmental Health Department and South Tahoe Public Utility District. That should be completed in the next couple weeks.

“I spoke with environmental health officials who explained that there is no indication of criminal conduct, as alluded to

on a Facebook posting. The health department official was reportedly present when the plumber cleared the line. For this reason, we will not be conducting any investigation into the fecal matter," South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Brian Uhler told *Lake Tahoe News*.

While fire departments can be part of these types of investigations, it often depends who is called first. In this case Lahontan received the first alert on May 4 that there had been a sewage spill from the Fresh Ketch restaurant in South Lake Tahoe that flowed onto a walkway into Lake Tahoe.

"If we would have been called via 911, we would have responded to the spill at the marina. I am guessing no one thought of us, but we would have sent a hazardous materials response and worked with the Coast Guard," SLT Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Jury begins deliberations in Nutting case

By Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee

Jurors this afternoon began deliberating the fate of El Dorado County Supervisor Ray Nutting in a case that could end his political career after four terms in office.

Attorneys representing Nutting and the El Dorado District Attorney's Office made closing arguments earlier today in a case involving alleged misrepresentation of grants Nutting received from CalFire. Jurors are set to return Tuesday at

8:30am.

Nutting faces four felonies and seven misdemeanors. The felony charges are related to economic disclosure reports Nutting submitted without describing the Cal Fire grants and his approval of budgets for two small fire districts that had board members who signed the grant checks.

If convicted of any of the felony counts, Nutting would have to resign his supervisor seat under state law.

Read the whole story

Lecture centers on all things running

Running: It’s Your Journey is the topic of Caroline and Alan Barichievich’s May 20 lecture.

The physical therapists with Barton Rehabilitation & Sports Medicine will talk from 6-7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College’s board room.

The free talk is for people who run a 5K or more than 100 miles. There will be a review of proper gear and attire, tips to improve running performance, and injury prevention and treatment.

McClintock challenger infuses drama into contest

By Christopher Cadelago, Sacramento Bee

In the last few weeks, Art Moore convened with business owners at Gar Woods Grill and Pier in Carnelian Bay.

He learned about California's bread basket from the Madera County Farm Bureau and cheered on the state's Olympians at a homecoming in Squaw Valley. Moore met with seniors in Roseville, gathered with veterans in Foresthill and joined families for an egg hunt in Granite Bay. There was breakfast at Heidi's Family Restaurant in South Lake Tahoe and lunch at Hog Wild BBQ in Placerville.

For Moore, 36, it's all new territory as he mounts an unexpected challenge to Rep. Tom McClintock, a conservative icon in California.

A Susanville native who recently moved to Roseville from Alexandria, Va., Moore spent years climbing the ranks of the military and then in private business, with little desire for the handshaking, baby-kissing and meat-on-a-stick eating activities that define campaigns. He had never registered to vote, let alone cast a ballot in an election, adhering to a philosophy that career military officers should avoid partisan politics. He registered for the first time – as a Republican – in January.

But for a nonpolitician, Moore's entry into the sprawling 4th District race centered in Placer and El Dorado counties has touched off a wealth of political intrigue.

Read the whole story

Scientists developing farm animals to survive climate change

By Evan Halper, Los Angeles Times

NEWARK, Del. – When a team of researchers from the University of Delaware traveled to Africa two years ago to search for exemplary chickens, they weren't looking for plump thighs or delicious eggs.

They were seeking out birds that could survive a hotter planet.

The researchers were in the vanguard of food scientists, backed by millions of dollars from the federal government, racing to develop new breeds of farm animals that can stand up to the hazards of global warming.

Some climate-change activists dismiss the work, which is just getting underway, as a distraction and a concession to industrial-style agriculture, which they blame for compounding the world's environmental problems. Those leading the experiments, however, say new, heat-resistant breeds of farm animals will be essential to feeding the world as climate change takes hold.

The experiments reflect a continued shift in the federal government's response to climate change. With efforts to reduce carbon emissions lagging behind what most scientists believe will be needed to forestall further warming, the government increasingly is looking for ways to protect key industries from the impact.

Read the whole story

K’s Kitchen: A different kind of egg-tortilla combo

By Kathryn Reed

Breakfast burritos are common in our household on weekends. But sometimes it’s time for a change.

The only drawback to the recipe below is that the tortilla ensembles have to be made one at a time, much like omelets. So, while it was fine for the two of us, this is not something I would make if we had guests because the eating would be too staggered.

Any type of cheese can be used. And the number of eggs is certainly a personal preference.

Sour cream would work instead of the yogurt, but that will make it way more fattening. The yogurt also gives it a tanginess that sour cream would not.

A common mistake with cooking eggs is having the heat too high. This leads to overcooked, firm, brown eggs.

I sprinkled paprika on top of the yogurt mixture just to make the dish look a little prettier.



Egg Tortilla

2 T plain nonfat Greek yogurt

1/4 tsp cumin

Dash Kosher salt

1 tsp extra-virgin olive oil

3 large eggs, slightly beaten

Pepper

1 tortilla

3 T Monterey Jack cheese

½ green onion, chopped

Chopped olives, optional

In a small bowl, mix the yogurt, cumin and salt.

In a 6-inch skillet, heat the olive oil. Slightly whip eggs and pepper. Cook over moderate heat without stirring, until set at the edges. Place the tortilla over the eggs, press gently and cook until the eggs are just set. Flip the eggs and tortilla. Sprinkle on half the cheese. Cook until the tortilla is golden on the bottom.

Slide the tortilla onto a plate.

Top with the remaining cheese, green onion and olives. Serve with a dollop of the cumin yogurt.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• The Tahoe Tallac Association has changed its name to Valhalla Tahoe. Information about this year’s festival is online.

• Scott Valentine, Earth science instructor at Lake Tahoe Community College, will talk June 3 at 6pm at the South Lake Tahoe Library about geology in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

• A professional shredding company will be at St. Theresa School (1081 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe) on May 10 from 10am-1pm. It is free, but donations are accepted.

• South Lake Tahoe is having a free summer kickoff party June 7 from 10am-2pm at the rec center on Rufus Allen Boulevard.

• More than 50 pounds of prescription medications were collected last month at the South Lake Tahoe prescription drug take back day.