# Opinion: Organizations keep Bread & Broth alive

**To the community,**

Bread & Broth would like to thank Heavenly Mountain Resort for its continued support in our Adopt-A-Day of Nourishment Program.




Volunteers from spent their Monday helping Bread & Broth volunteers serve those in need a well balanced nutritious meal to people from the community.

The volunteers from our local Kiwanis have been very generous in their efforts to help our cause. The Bread and Broth staff that Monday was excited that the Kiwanis were there to offer their support for our Adopt-A-Day of Nourishment through the Bread & Broth program.

Bread & Broth is able to continue its mission of feeding the hungry of South Lake Tahoe in large part because of the generosity of the local community. A $250 sponsorship covers the cost of food and beverages for the approximately 100 people who visit each Monday evening.

To find out how your family or business can Adopt A Day of Nourishment, contact Connie Blue at midwest2tahoe@yahoo.com or (530) 544.4945.

**Bread & Broth**

# Ticks carrying Lyme disease a problem in Placer County

**By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee**

Ticks have tested positive for Lyme disease in Placer County.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lyme disease symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and skin rash. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.

Anyone hiking or working in the country should exercise caution, according to the Placer Mosquito and Vector Control District.

**Read the whole story**

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# K’s Kitchen: A casserole with Minnesota’s state grain

**By Kathryn Reed**

Between 4 million and 6.5 million pounds of wild rice are harvested each year in Minnesota. A few ounces arrived in my post office box the other day. In the package was a recipe for wild rice casserole.



With the recipe and wild rice (which is actually an aquatic grass and not rice) came a handwritten note from Barb talking about her Minnesota roots and how wonderful this native grain is.

A couple weeks ago I published a wild rice soup recipe my sister in Minnesota shared with me. With wild rice seeming to be a big deal, it seemed like it was time to do a little research about this edible these Minnesotans are so fond of.

My brother-in-law Mike says it comes down to how it's produced. Old ways have people going in canoes in shallow lakes to harvest the rice. People each fall harvest rice this way from the lake Tami (my sister) and Mike live on.

Big grain harvesters can extract the plant now. But according to those in the know, the end product is not as good.

Mike equates a good wild rice to a good wine – you can taste the difference compared to bad rice or bad wine. A rich, nutty flavor is what a good wild rice should taste like.

The rice Barb sent me is from Byerly's – an upscale grocery store she shopped at when she lived in Minnesota. The recipe is from "The Best of Byerly's" – which was first published in 1985.

"My changes were to add the bacon and water chestnuts. I probably got that idea from another Minnesota friend way back. I am not sure the rice itself is that much better than the brands/varieties that can be purchased in California. Perhaps it is the fond memories of living in the Midwest," Barb told me. "To me, this recipe is one of those that is definitely better the next day or so, and so good when one is really hungry!"

I used veggie broth and almonds. It is definitely rich and

nutty. And it definitely takes a long time to cook.

**Wild Rice Casserole (serves 6-8)**

1 C uncooked wild rice

½ pound fresh mushrooms, sliced, about 3 cups

3 T minced onion

½ C sliced almonds and/or water chestnuts

3 C chicken broth

¼ C butter or margarine

Rinse wild rice under running water using a strainer or in a bowl of water, drain. Combine rice, mushrooms, onion and almonds and/or water chestnuts in 2-quart casserole. Add broth; dot with butter. Bake, covered in a 325-degree oven until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed, about 1½ hours.

**Barb's notes:** In Tahoe, due to altitude, I bake this about 2½ hours. And a few times during baking, stir it. I have improvised a lot. I have added fresh asparagus the last 30 minutes, and about ½ pound of fried and crumbled bacon. This dish freezes well, although you may have to add some water as you heat it after freezing. It is a great "make it the night before" casserole also. Personally, I think it is better the next day and reheated.

# Charitable giving on the increase in California

**By Edward Ortiz, Sacramento Bee**

Californians gave more to nonprofits and charities last year than they did in 2010, according to a recent report by the charitable research company Atlas of Giving.

In California, charitable giving grew by 7.1 percent, the report found. All states experienced growth, with the nation posting an overall 7.5 percent rise from the prior year, the study said. A total of $346 billion was given nationally in 2011.

In the local charitable community, however, the report is being taken with guarded optimism.

“I would be very surprised if giving was up by that much,” said Ruth Blank, executive director of the Sacramento Community Region Foundation, or SCRF. The agency is the largest local overseer of charitable funds established by individuals, families, businesses and organizations.

Blank is taking a wait-and-see approach with the results of the report’s findings given that Atlas of Giving, an upstart in the charitable giving research field, is using a new analytics and algorithmic approach to crunching data and forecasting.

Blank believes any significant rise in giving may be the result of donors seeking to help sustain programs that have lost government funding. “There are a lot of programs that are not supported in public schools anymore, so private dollars are going there,” Blank said.

Morever, the national increases identified in the report may

not be readily reflected in the Sacramento metropolitan area as the region lags behind the nation in giving, Blank said.

**Read the whole story**

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# Redevelopment's demise a mixed bag in South Tahoe

**Updated Jan. 31, 2012, 3:45pm:** *The bill allowing cities to use redevelopment funds for affordable housing projects passed the state Senate today, however, it won't be implemented immediately. This is causing further confusion for cities throughout the state.*

**By Kathryn Reed**

It's over. Redevelopment is dead.

With six 4-0 votes Monday night (Angela Swanson was absent), the South Lake Tahoe City Council dissolved the Redevelopment Agency, re-created the South Lake Tahoe Housing Authority, and as the successor agency put in the necessary parameters for it to function.

All cities with redevelopment agencies must dismantle them by the end of the day Jan. 31 per state regulations. After all, it was the state that created redevelopment in the mid-1900s.

The Jan. 30 meeting was a continuation of the Jan. 17 council meeting.

The one unknown remains the vote in the Legislature that would allow cities to transfer their housing money from redevelopment to newly created housing authorities, like the one South Tahoe created Monday. The state Senate on Tuesday is expected to vote on SB654. Indicators are it will pass both houses.

Creating the housing entity in South Tahoe means keeping $1.5 million that is in that pot for housing. It was revealed Monday night that the city will be able to keep all of its lead paint grant funding from the feds and not have to come up with the match as was the requirement when the money came to it via the Redevelopment Agency.

If the Legislature votes not to create housing agencies, that money cannot be used for housing and would instead be used to pay down the redevelopment debt.

It was agreed Councilman Hal Cole will be the city's rep on the oversight agency board, with Councilman Bruce Grego the alternate. (More about redevelopment and what happens is detailed in this Jan. 18 *Lake Tahoe News* story.)

One thing that bothered Councilman Tom Davis (who was participating via telephone) was the remainder of the $7 million that the Redevelopment Agency owes the general fund will technically not be repaid. This is because the state says it is not an enforceable obligation. The state wiped out all loans between agencies and cities.

This is because in many ways it was all a shell game – taking money from one pot, to fill another, to eventually fill the first one. It's really all the same money being shuffled from one account to another. While legal, the ethics of it are certainly questionable.

The $7 million in question was taken from the general fund to pay off the bills from the Heavenly Village project. But how those bills were presented to councils at the time was not

transparent. The reality of the situation did not come to light until the checks had long been cashed. And then it was a couple years before a repayment plan was put in place.

But really, it was always the city just paying itself. It was never the Redevelopment Agency paying the city. This is because the only money exclusive to the agency was tax increment – which is property tax dollars. That had to go to bond debt.

The $7 million loan – of which half has been "repaid" on paper – is really transient occupancy dollars. That money has always gone directly into the general fund. From there some would go to the Redevelopment Agency. And then it would go back to the general fund as the loan payment.

With redevelopment agencies abolished, it should make for cleaner books, at least in South Lake Tahoe.

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# Casinos ordered to pay sales tax on comped meals

**By Cy Ryan, Las Vegas Sun**

CARSON CITY – In a decision with far-reaching impact on the state budget and casino balance sheets, the Nevada Tax Commission ruled that casinos must pay sales tax on comped meals given to players and their employees.

The commission, in this single case, rejected an appeal by Boyd Gaming Corp. and its 12 casinos in Clark County, which were seeking a refund of the taxes they have paid.

The 6-1 decision will mean hundreds of millions of dollars in refunds being sought by casinos statewide will stay with the state. Every casino in the state has a similar appeal before the tax commission. Next up is Caesars Entertainment.

The commission decided that sales tax would be based on the retail price of the meal.

John Bartlett, attorney for Boyd, argued that complimentary meals were not taxable because no money changes hands. There is no sale and therefore there can’t be a tax.

**Read the whole story**

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# Book sale at South Tahoe library

Friends of the Library is having a book sale Feb. 11 from 10am-3pm at the South Lake Tahoe branch library.

The library is at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

For more information, call (530) 573.3185.

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# Saturday Stories and Crafts at library

The Douglas County Public Library in Zephyr Cove is presenting Saturday Stories and Crafts on Feb. 11 at 3pm.

Celebrate Valentine's Day at the library. Children ages 3 and up may choose a craft to make. All supplies will be provided. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.

Register for this program by Feb. 10 by calling (775) 588.6411.

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# Robber gets away with cash from South Tahoe bank

A man who robbed the Wells Fargo Bank inside a South Lake Tahoe Raley's Monday morning is on the loose.

The amount of cash he stole from the Stateline area bank is not being released.

The incident occurred at 11:25am Jan. 30.



This man is wanted in a

Jan. 30 bank robbery in South Lake Tahoe.

Officers said the suspect walked up to the teller and demanded cash. No weapon was seen or mentioned by the suspect.

He was last seen walking east from the shopping center toward the area of Heavenly Village Way and Bellamy Court.

The suspect was described as being a white male, late 50s to early 60s, approximately 6-feet-tall, skinny build, wearing a tan "touring" type hat, tan jacket, and khaki pants. The suspect was wearing prescription glasses.

Anyone with information or knows the identity of the suspect is asked to contact Detective Pierre Herring at the South Lake Tahoe Police Department at (530) 542.6100 or or, to remain anonymous, contact South Lake Tahoe Secret Witness at (530) 541.6800.

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# Suit claims well-known Nevada businessman embezzled millions

**By Martha Bellisle, Reno Gazette-Journal**

The former business partners of Harvey Whittemore — a well-known Nevada lobbyist, land developer, businessman and lawyer — filed a civil lawsuit Friday claiming he embezzled millions

of dollars from the Wingfield company they ran together and misappropriated corporate funds and assets.

The suit, filed in Clark County District Court by lawyers for the Wingfield Nevada Group Holding Co., claims that Whittemore's Wingfield partners, Thomas Seeno and Albert Seeno Jr., confronted Whittemore in 2010 about numerous discrepancies they found in the Wingfield financial books and Whittemore "prepared himself a written confession" admitting the alleged crimes.

The suit also names Annette Whittemore, his wife, and the Lakeshore House Limited Parternship.

"Acting as a manager of Wingfield, Whittemore has admitted and confessed to engaging to over 20 different financial transactions designed to deplete Wingfield of its assets for the sole purposes of enhancing and promoting Whittemore's financial condition and to further his standing in the political community of Nevada," the suit said.

"These allegations are false," the Whittemores said in an email. "We will take any and all steps necessary to preserve the reputation for integrity that we have built in this state for over 40 years."

The company is the developer of Wingfield Springs and Red Hawk Golf Course in Spanish Springs. It also is sole or majority owner of a list of entities, including Coyote Springs Investment, Red Hawk Land Co., Western Electronics, known as Wild West Sound Co., and Wingfield Springs Realty.

Tom and Albert Seeno Jr., of California, are part-owners of Peppermill Casino Inc.

Kent Robison, one of the Wingfield lawyers, said in an email that the allegations have been reported to the Reno Police Department.

**Read the whole story**