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Publisher's note: *Lake Tahoe News is looking for gift ideas that are less than \$20. Find out how to make a suggestion.*



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Cookbook features recipes from dead celebrities

By Larry Cox, Tucson Citizen

Frank Decaro, the flamboyant movie critic of “The Daily Show” with Jon Stewart and host of a national call-in program on Sirius XM Satellite Radio, got the inspiration for his new cookbook while attending a Dead Celebrity Party.

As he mingled dressed as the late Euell Gibbons, he realized the only thing missing from the event was the favorite culinary dishes of the departed.

With that in mind, Decaro began scouring flea markets, yard sales and eBay in search of out-of-print celebrity cookbooks. The result is a collection of recipes that the stars are dying for you to make. Best of all, this cookbook is outrageous and fun.

“The Dead Celebrity Cookbook: A Resurrection of Recipes from More Than 145 Stars of Stage and Screen” costs \$19.95.

The recipes are divided into 25 sections including I Lunch Lucy, recipes from TV’s favorite redhead; an All-Night Oscar Buffet dishing up Joan Crawford’s Poached Salmon and Claudette Colbert’s Cheese and Olive Puffs; a Psycho Shower, Anthony Perkin’s Tuna Salad and Alfred Hitchcock’s Quiche Lorraine; a Gay Bash, Truman Capote’s Fettuccine and Christine Jorgensen’s Pineapple-Apricot Preserves; and Pool Party on Sunset Boulevard with Potassium Broth, a specialty from Gloria Swanson.

Packed with celebrity profiles and tidbits of pop culture, this cookbook also features party menus and much, much more, all from the recipe files of the departed stars of television, radio, and Broadway. With this book in hand, you can whip up such delights as Mae West’s Fruit Compote, Katharine Hepburn’s Brownies, Farrah Fawcett’s Sausage and Peppers Supreme, and even test Liberace’s Sticky Buns (I’m not making this up!).

Read the whole story

Price cut in half for pet adoptions in Placer County

Numerous lovable and healthy pets are available for adoption from Placer County's animal shelters, and coupons covering half of the adoption fee are still available at the shelters in order to place as many adoptable animals into caring homes as possible.

This promotion continues through Dec. 15.

Placer County Animal Services is able to offer the half-off coupons because of charitable contributions and the support of A New Hope Animal Foundation. The coupons are available for all adoptable animals in Auburn and Tahoe Vista.

Residents need only to arrive at a shelter, select their new pet, get a coupon on the spot, and pay half of the usual fee. The half-off fee is \$56 for dogs and \$46 for cats.

The Auburn animal shelter is located at 11251 B Ave., Auburn, and the Tahoe Vista shelter is located at 849 Shelter Road, Tahoe Vista.

Additional information is available by calling Placer County Animal Services at (530) 886.5540.

What would you do to improve

the holiday spirit in the Lake Tahoe Basin?

Holiday parade in South Lake Tahoe

Winter is the theme of a mini parade being organized by the California-based South Shore chamber.

The Dec. 17 event will begin at 10am at Grocery Outlet in South Lake Tahoe and end about a mile later at the American Legion Hall.

The deadline to register is Dec. 9 at 5pm. Contact Steve Rozier at (530) 721.1001 for more info. And there is a fee to participate.

Lahontan: Lake clarity at any cost, no matter what

By Kathryn Reed

More than one billion dollars – \$1,000,000,000 – is what has been spent on the environmental improvement program in the

Lake Tahoe Basin. The goal is to increase lake clarity.

Clarity is not declining as rapidly as it once was, but it's still declining each year. That makes the programs winners, according to Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control board members and staff.

And Executive Director Harold Singer readily admitted at the Dec. 6 Lahontan board meeting that nothing his agency has made entities do can definitively be said to have improved that clarity.



El Dorado
County
Supervisor
Norma
Santiago,
center,
addresses the
Lahontan board
Dec. 6 while
her board
stands next to
her.

Photo/Kathryn
Reed

He said he's often asked by money suppliers – the federal government in particular – what they are getting for their money. He points to projects.

“We’ve never been able to quantify those actions as they

relate to water quality,” Singer said.

The EIP program started after then-President Bill Clinton’s visit to Lake Tahoe in 1997 – hardly the Dark Ages when it comes to scientific know-how.

It is just now that Lahontan believes it has developed the tools to quantify how projects impact lake clarity.

On Tuesday, the Lahontan board on a 5-0 vote (Keith Dyas was absent and three board positions remain vacant) agreed to approve the stormwater-urban runoff permit system for South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County and Placer County.

The board didn’t see any point in extending the process – despite the passionate pleas of the three jurisdictions. While in some ways the process has been lengthy and years in the making, the comment period closed Nov. 30 – less than a week before the board voted.

It’s through the permitting process that Lahontan will monitor projects on the California side of the basin.

But it was also said by board member Amy Horne to the three jurisdictions, “If in 2016 we don’t see the level of improvement we expect, it’s not your problem.” (That is the year the five-year permit expires, though the program continues, and permits will need to keep being acquired.) In other words, if that occurs, fine sediment won’t be the culprit after all.

Sediment reduction is what the city and two counties are tasked with. Regulators in the basin all say the majority of fine sediment clouding Lake Tahoe is from urban runoff.

But there is more than just particles reaching the lake.

Horne said weather is an uncontrollable factor in all of this. The more snow, the more runoff, thus the cloudier the lake gets. Droughts provide for the best clarity readings.

Midway through the 4½-hour meeting at Embassy Suites, Brendan Ferry, senior planner with El Dorado County, explained how his jurisdiction believes its measuring tools are superior to Lahontan's.

While the permit allows the jurisdictions to use other tools, Lahontan must approve those tools. But no one could give the multiple speakers for the county an answer as to how it will be determined if their tools are legit, and if a decision will be made so the first deadline of March 15 to provide Lahontan with mandated information can be met.

The county is so incensed with what is going on that the Board of Supervisors recessed their regular meeting for all to attend the Lahontan meeting. As Supervisor Norma Santiago read the prepared statement, her colleagues flanked her in a show of support not usually seen.

"What has been created in the TMDL Management System are tools that lack scientific backing, that are not integrated, are duplicative and/or inefficient and will require tremendous administrative staff time to analyze and implement," Santiago said.

She went to say, "If you go through with the draft permit today, the predictable result for the county, because of these unnecessary administrative costs, will be layoffs in the transportation department, roads will not be fixed in compliance with the requirements and we may be forced to do very little toward our common goals."

Money is a big issue for the jurisdictions. It could cost up to \$2 million a year to do what Lahontan is asking. Federal money is evaporating. No one knows how the requirements will be implemented without cash to do so.

Lahontan staff has told *Lake Tahoe News* the Total Maximum Daily Load and now the stormwater permit are not unfunded mandates. But when someone or an agency is told they must do

something and no money is provided to do the mandate – that makes it an unfunded mandate.

Ken Grehm, director of Placer County Public Works Department, said he's been disappointed how Lahontan staff repeatedly say money can't be an issue. He added that if any useful discussions are going to happen in the future, there must be the realization money is important.

"Water quality is just one of the services we provide," Grehm said. This sentiment is shared by all jurisdictions.

Lahontan board member Don Jardine, who is also on the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, understands shrinking budgets. He didn't use the phrase "unfunded mandate" but at the end of his remarks he ultimately said, "things have been put on us that we have to do."

It's the federal Environmental Protection Agency that is responsible for the TMDL program throughout the country.

Jacques Landy, who works for the EPA out of an office in the TRPA building, told the board his agency is satisfied with the permit as written and voiced support of its approval.

Sarah Hussong-Johnson, South Lake Tahoe director of engineering, echoed her colleagues in questioning Lahontan's tools and the money needed to satisfy the permit.

(Hefty fines that could not be articulated well at the meeting will be levied against the jurisdictions if they don't satisfy the permit requirements.)

Hussong-Johnson also said the city is frustrated with the "lack of a concerted effort with the near shore."

This is where the growing muck and marked lack of clarity is visible standing on the beach. This isn't the clarity that is measured. If it were, the numbers would be worse. Instead, a disc that looks like a white dinner plate is lowered into the

water from the middle of the lake. That's how the experts determine lake clarity.

The Lahontan board resumes its meeting this morning at 8:30 at Embassy Suites. The main topic is pesticide use.

Freshies hosts fundraiser for LTWC

Eat at Freshies (3330 Lake Tahoe Blvd., No. 3, South Lake Tahoe) on Dec. 7 from 6-9pm for \$10 to help raise money for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

LTWC is an animal rehab center that returns critters back the wild.

Freshies owner Melodie Ulman is on the board of LTWC.

Opinion: Voters should decide

California's future

Publisher's note: *This is an open letter to the people of California from Gov. Jerry Brown.*

To the people,

When I became governor again – 28 years after my last term ended in 1983 – California was facing a \$26.6 billion budget deficit. It was the result of years of failing to match spending with tax revenues as budget gimmicks instead of honest budgeting became the norm.

In January, I proposed a budget that combined deep cuts with a temporary extension of some existing taxes. It was a balanced approach that would have finally closed our budget gap.



Jerry Brown

I asked the Legislature to enact this plan and to allow you, the people of California, to vote on it. I believed that you had the right to weigh in on this important choice: should we decently fund our schools or lower our taxes? I don't know how you would have voted, but we will never know. The Republicans refused to provide the four votes needed to put this measure on the ballot.

Forced to act alone, Democrats went ahead and enacted massive cuts and the first honest, on-time budget in a decade. But without the tax extensions, it was simply not possible to eliminate the state's structural deficit.

The good news is that our financial condition is much better than a year ago. We cut the ongoing budget deficit by more than half, reduced the state's workforce by about 5,500 positions and cut unnecessary expenses like cell phones and state cars. We actually cut state expenses by over \$10 billion. Spending is now at levels not seen since the seventies. Our state's credit rating has moved from "negative" to "stable," laying the foundation for job creation and a stronger economic recovery.

Unfortunately, the deep cuts we made came at a huge cost. Schools have been hurt and state funding for our universities has been reduced by 25 percent. Support for the elderly and the disabled has fallen to where it was in 1983. Our courts suffered debilitating reductions.

The stark truth is that without new tax revenues, we will have no other choice but to make deeper and more damaging cuts to schools, universities, public safety and our courts.

That is why I am filing this week an initiative with the Attorney General's Office that would generate nearly \$7 billion in dedicated funding to protect education and public safety. I am going directly to the voters because I don't want to get bogged down in partisan gridlock as happened this year. The stakes are too high.

My proposal is straightforward and fair. It proposes a temporary tax increase on the wealthy, a modest and temporary increase in the sales tax, and guarantees that the new revenues be spent only on education.

Here are the details:

Millionaires and high-income earners will pay up to 2 percent higher income taxes for five years. No family making less than \$500,000 a year will see their income taxes rise. In fact, fewer than 2 percent of California taxpayers will be affected by this increase.

There will be a temporary half cent increase in the sales tax. Even with this temporary increase, sales taxes will still be lower than what they were less than six months ago.

This initiative dedicates funding only to education and public safety—not on other programs that we simply cannot afford.

This initiative will not solve all of our fiscal problems. But it will stop further cuts to education and public safety.

I ask you to join with me to get our state back on track.

Jerry Brown, governor of California

U.S. men do well in GS; Jitloff places 10th

By USSA

BEAVER CREEK – Three-time Audi FIS Alpine World Cup giant slalom champion Ted Ligety of Park City stormed from behind Tuesday to win the second Audi Birds of Prey GS in Beaver Creek. It was his second win in three GS races and vaulted him into second in the overall Audi FIS Alpine World Cup standings.

After sitting fourth with a 0.14 deficit in the first run, Ligety won the second run by 0.72 for the 10th victory of his career and second in Beaver Creek.

Tim Jitloff of Reno was 10th, Tommy Ford of Bend, Ore., 15th and Bode Miller of Franconia, N.H., 29th as four Americans landed in the top 30.

“I felt really good and this was a good result for me. I wanted to be in the top 10 and I did that,” Jitloff said. “It’s always a positive sign when you see the green light after crossing the finish line.”

World Cup women will take their first race runs on the famed Birds of Prey track Wednesday with a super G, featuring local hero Lindsey Vonn of Vail who enters the race after sweeping three World Cup races last weekend in Lake Louise, Alberta.

NLTRA looking for marketing committee members

The North Lake Tahoe Resort Association is accepting applications for three seats on its Marketing Committee. These are three-year terms, January 2012 to December 2014.

The NLTRA Marketing Committee is made up of two board members, nine appointed lay (community) members and a Placer County CEO representative. Lay members are selected based on their relevant marketing experience, geographic area and industry representation. The NLTRA Board of Directors will appointment the committee members Jan. 4.

Individuals for consideration need to submit a letter of interest and resume to NLTRA Tourism Director Andy Chapman by

Dec. 27, 5pm via email, Andy@PureTahoeNorth.com, or by mail at Attention: Marketing Committee Application, P.O. Box 5459, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

The NLTRA operates the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and the Tahoe North Convention and Visitors Bureau, and is a partner with the Incline Village Crystal Bay Visitors Bureau in the North Lake Tahoe Marketing Cooperative. The NLTRA also serves as a partner with Placer County and other public agencies in the development and funding of infrastructure, transit and community mobility projects designed to enhance tourism and community quality of life for the benefit of all in the North Lake Tahoe region.