

Library holiday party

The South Lake Tahoe branch library (1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.) is having a Children's Holiday Party on Dec. 10 at 2pm.

Join us for an afternoon of family fun:

- Listen to a holiday story
- Sing Christmas carols
- Free picture of children with Santa
- Holiday frames for children to make and decorate
- Refreshments will be provided.

This program is free, however, a non-perishable food item donation to Christmas Cheer is requested.

Opinion: Tahoe food pantry expresses thanks

To the community,

Tahoe Community Church Food Pantry would like to say thank you for the generous donations to our Food Pantry from the community.

MontBleu casino and its employees continued their tradition of the last several years and generously donated 20 turkeys to our food pantry. This enabled us to feed 151 families in need

this Thanksgiving, with a turkey and all the fixings.

The Carson City Salvation Army's turkey donation event gave us a generous 90 turkeys for this Thanksgiving Dinner.

Whittell High School students had their yearly canned food drive, and generously donated a large number of non-perishable canned and boxed foods to our food pantry.

Thank you Harrah's/Harveys casinos once again for the use of their freezer for turkey storage.

Thank you Cub Scout Troop 592 for being at our Thanksgiving Dinner giveaway and helping to carry all the food to people's cars.

Thank you to the members of Tahoe Community Church and various other individuals who donated food and funding for this holiday Thanksgiving dinner giveaway.

Thank you to all for your support, which helps us to continue to feed those in need.

Kathy Pavich, Tahoe Community Church Food Pantry

Douglas County ready to move forward with Conservation Bill

Douglas County, after more than 2.5 years of stakeholder meetings, it is moving forward on the Douglas County Conservation Bill by having public open houses at several

locations through mid-December to share information and seek public input.

“The bill is locally developed, comprehensive federal legislation that will improve public lands management and help achieve Douglas County’s long-term master plan goals for growth, conservation, and public recreation,” Steve Mokrohisky, Douglas County manager, said in a press release.

The measure would transfer federally owned cultural lands to the Washoe Tribe, transfer federal lands to Douglas County for water resource infrastructure and flood attenuation projects, improve the management of certain federally owned public recreation parcels, address the proposed Burbank Canyons Wilderness Area, and provide for the sale of excess and difficult to manage federal lands in the Carson Valley, ensuring that the sales proceeds are used locally to acquire conservation easements from willing landowners in Douglas County.

The Douglas County Conservation Bill balances the county’s development and planning needs with the protection of its cultural heritage, historical agricultural operations, floodplain lands, and natural resources. It is designed to improve access to public lands, and strengthen the ability of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to focus on their respective core responsibilities of forest and rangeland management.

The meetings are:

Minden: Dec. 5, 5:30–7:30pm, Emergency Operations Center, 1694 County Road, Minden

North Douglas County: Dec. 6, 5:30–7:30pm, North Sunridge Fire Station, 3620 N. Sunridge Drive, Carson City

South Douglas County–Topaz Area: Dec. 7, 5:30–7:30pm, Topaz Ranch Estates Community Center, 4001 Carter Way, Wellington

Lake Tahoe: Dec. 12, 5:30–7:30pm, Tahoe Transportation Center, 169 Highway 50, Stateline

Genoa: Dec. 14, 5:30–7:30pm, Genoa Town Hall, 2287 Main St., Genoa.

Rene Smania – 1964-2011

Rene Ernest Smania, 47, passed from this world way too soon on Nov. 29, 2011, after a courageous three-year battle with cancer.

Born in San Francisco to Swiss parents, his family returned to Switzerland when he was 3. He attended chef and butcher schools in Switzerland before serving two years in the Swiss army.



Rene Smania

He returned to the United States in 1985, learned to speak English and found success in a number of professions, including chef, managing hardware and retail stores, and most recently as manager of the Happy Homestead Cemetery in South Lake Tahoe.

In 1992, he met his wife of 18 years, Celine. The two moved

from Maui to South Lake Tahoe where they were married and built a wonderful life together with their four-legged children, Zephyr, Bentley and Sammy.

Besides being the jokester that he was, Rene was a man of many talents. The longer he and Celine were married the more she said she kept discovering his hidden talents.

Cooking was his passion, along with motorcycles, skiing, painting, yodeling and just about anything else.

Most of all he loved sitting around the kitchen table after a good meal with family and friends talking about everything and anything.

“Thank you Rene for 18 wonderful years. I’ll love you forever and a day,” Celine said.

His father, Ernest, and Aunt Rita preceded Rene in death.

He is survived by his wife, Celine; mother Vera; brother Michael; sister Esther and her husband Richard; Uncle Paul; cousins Michelle and Susy; in-law Doris Hamann and Gerard Thibeault and their children Linda and Dennis; other relatives and numerous friends.

**Alert: Smoke near Stateline
is resurrection of control**

burn

U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit fire crews are responding to the rekindling of a weeks-old prescribed fire off Andria Drive on Kingsbury Grade, near Stateline.

Three Forest Service crews and two engines were on the scene Thursday morning.

The fire is 10-12 acres in the middle of the unit. Extremely cold temperatures and high winds are creating difficult conditions for firefighters and interfering with the ability to pump water from engines. Full containment is expected at noon today.

The Forest Service last conducted prescribed fire operations in the unit a few weeks ago, and crews had been routinely monitoring and patrolling the area for fire activity. No smoke had been observed from the unit for the past five to seven days.

Early this morning, the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District reported to the Forest Service that the prescribed fire unit was active. Tahoe Douglas firefighters were the first on scene but have since been released.

G. Love & Special Sauce

G. Love & Special Sauce will be at Harrah's Lake Tahoe on Feb. 25 at 7pm.

Must be 21 to attend.

Ticket are \$29.50; call 800.786.8208.

Fitz & The Tantrums

Fitz & The Tantrums will be at Harrah's Lake Tahoe on Jan. 28 at 7pm.

Tickets are \$30.

Must be at least 21 to attend.

For tickets, call 800.786.8208.

Sun Kings in Stateline

The Sun Kings play at Harrah's Lake Tahoe on Dec. 25 at 7:30pm.

Tickets are \$15. Call 800.786.8208.

Power out in parts of S.

Tahoe; winds expected to continue

About 600 Liberty Energy customers are without power this morning in the Sierra Tract of South Lake Tahoe.

High winds toppled a tree, which put wires on the ground and broke three cross arms. The company expects the power to be restored about 10 this morning.

National Weather Service officials say high winds will be blowing through much of Northern California and Northern Nevada today. Persistent gusts in the Lake Tahoe Basin are expected to be between 40 and 55mph, with ridge gusts of 100 to 130mph.

With the wind comes ice cold temps. The basin is not expected to have daytime highs in the 40s until Monday. The coldest overnight lows – single digits – are forecast for Truckee for the next few nights.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Nevada continues to be a state of immigrants

By Steve Timko, Reno Gazette-Journal

Almost one in five Nevadans were born in another country,

while about one in four were born in the Silver State, according to recent U.S. Census Bureau data.

Nevada handily retains its title of having the fewest native-born residents of any state in the latest American Community Survey data from the census bureau.

Nevada's 24.3 percent estimated native-born population is almost 11 percentage points behind Florida, which has the second lowest native population at 35.2 percent.

Nevada's native-born population increased from the 2000 census, when 21.3 percent of the state's population reported being born here.

Former Nevada state historian Guy Rocha said this is pretty much how it's always been for the Silver State.

"This state has always been about immigration," Rocha said.

And it's not just people who move here from other places in the country; they come from all over the world.

From the state's beginning in 1864 through about the 1920s, it was the boom-and-bust cycle of mining that drove the state's population growth.

Mining drew an Irish and Cornish population from Great Britain and also Italians and Slavs.

Agriculture drew Portuguese to Lovelock, Fallon and Yerington; Germans and Danes to Carson Valley; and Italians to Dayton and Reno, Rocha said.

The Silver State can't even mint its own governors, Rocha said. Out of 30 governors, only seven were born here. Paul Laxalt, who was in office from 1967 to 1971, was the last native-born governor.

Read the whole story

