Lake Tahoe News resumes daily ski report

It’s back – *Lake Tahoe News’* morning ski report brought to you by Curtis Fong – the Guy from Tahoe.

New this year is the report having its own category on the Home page. Ski Conditions is the category to look for. It’s in the tool bar at the top of the page toward the right. The current day’s report should be up between 7 and 8am. It has information about resorts throughout the greater Lake Tahoe area.

It will no longer appear in the daily digest as it has in past years.

Enjoy the snow – more will becoming this weekend. Powder day?

– Kathryn Reed

Cookbook doesn’t live up to expectations

By Kathryn Reed

Some people read cookbooks like they are novels. That’s what my friend Toni does. I approach them as books with recipes – not much more.



Now, it's not quite that simplistic. I often go to cookbooks to try something more, to challenge myself, to make something special, to use an ingredient I have leftover from something else but don't know what else to do with it, or because I'm tired of making all my regular dishes.

What intrigued me about getting a copy of "Clean Start" by Terry Walters is the approach to eating well. The 100 recipes are vegan and gluten-free.

With a cousin and good friend who have celiac disease, which means they can't eat gluten, I thought I might find something in here for them.

While there are plenty of recipes, I didn't find many I would want to make. Part of it was the names – Cabbage Sauté with Tart Cherries and Crisp Apples, Pinto Beans with Stewed Tomatoes and Spinach, and Ginger Shiitake Soup with Cabbage and Edamame Beans. Maybe it's just me, but none of those sounds good.

I will say the photography makes the food look good.

However, reading the recipes flustered me at times either because I didn't know what it was (arrowroot powder or mirin) or figured I wouldn't be able to find it in South Lake Tahoe (brown rice syrup).

I love the premise of the book. Walters writes, "For one person, eating clean may mean eliminating preservatives and artificial ingredients. For the next, it may mean giving up processed foods altogether. And for yet another, it may mean going directly to the farm. What matters most is not where you are in this continuum, but that you identify opportunities to move closer to the source and are empowered to act on them."

I embrace what Walters has to say. I'll just be choosing other

recipes.

The one recipe I tried was for baked apples. It’s OK, but way too sweet for me. I felt like I wasted the special pippins a friend had picked up for me in Apple Hill.

Decide for yourself.

Baked Apples with Raisins and Toasted Almonds

4 baking apples of choice

½ C sliced almonds

¼ C raisins

½ C maple syrup

½ C apple cider or juice

2 tsp grated fresh ginger

2 tsp lemon juice

1 T lemon zest

Freshly grated nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Halve apples and scoop out cores. Halve again and fit apples close together (flesh side up) in an 8 x 8-inch baking dish in one layer. Sprinkle almonds and raisins evenly over apples.

In small saucepan over medium heat, combine maple syrup, apple cider, ginger and lemon juice, and heat briefly. Remove from heat and pour evenly over apples. Sprinkle lemon zest and nutmeg evenly over the top, cover tightly with foil and bake 45 minutes or until apples are soft. Remove from oven and remove foil. Preheat broiler. Broil apples 1 minute to brown tops. Remove from oven, cool slightly and serve apples with extra cooking liquid as desired.

Serves 6.

Variations: Substitute pecans and dried cranberries for almonds and raisins. You can even substitute pears for apples.

An evening for women who play in the backcountry

Alpenglow Sports in Tahoe City is hosting an evening for women to gather, connect, network, share stories, talk gear, and shop.

If you like to backcountry ski or ride, this is an opportunity to meet other women doing the same thing.

The free gathering is Nov. 30 from 6:30-8pm. It includes food, drink and prizes.

For more information, call Alpenglow Sports at (530) 583.6917.

How would you promote Lake Tahoe if you were in charge?

Buying art is nowhere near as complicated as rocket science

By Robert Schimmel

How many times have I heard the question – “It has to go with my couch, right?” – directly or subliminally during my gallery and private sales experience. In return I’ve wanted desperately to ask, “Is that like a dating priority or matchmaking game?”

On the more humorous side is the truth that, yes, it is. Sadly, most do not take it with any seriousness akin to entering a relationship with someone and are glib or uninvolved in what amounts to an investment that will influence their lives daily for potentially long time.



Robert Schimmel

So, what’s a rookie to do when all that’s needed is an innocuous space filler? I’m so glad you asked.

Initially we must make a few assumptions and set out some premises because one artwork does not fit all. If you literally only need or want something to fill a given space for a few months and know you’ll seldom have to look at it, then go to Walmart or borrow something from mom and be happy (this equates to “throw away art” and is just fine).

However, I truly believe such to be a rare circumstance for a

lot of reasons. Thus, on the flip side of this canvas is our first premise: you want to enhance your surroundings and understand how art can enrich an attitude, recall a joy, encourage opinions and reflection, etc. Our second premise is that you want good quality, a fair price and practical guidelines, including realistic access to art. Be aware, this is not about investment art, which gets into a tricky, nefarious realm that generally requires more money, knowledge and a different attitude, not unlike what is requisite for the stock market. And, finally, you want this to be a fun, life long journey of loving and gathering art if not collecting it.

Setting the table for a process of finding and purchasing art you want to live with is fairly logical and straightforward. You have the option of making it more or less detailed and enlightening. Simply put, you need to know: A) what you like, which will come from a "seek and discover" mission that may be the most important part of the process; B) how to "select and find" the art and artists you prefer from part A; C) doing your "homework" on these semi-finalists; and D) the actual "purchase" of art – starting with your budget to negotiation to credit card – from the finalists chosen in part C.

So let's jump into part A and look at some aspects of the "seek and discover" mission. First, you must put aside previous opinions, assume and eliminate nothing, and experience as much art as possible. Take your time; look intently and for gut responses to the old, new, small, large, as well as myriad styles (abstract, photo realist, impressionistic, surreal, etc), media (watercolor, oil, photography, bronze sculpture, etching, fabric/fiber, etc), and subject matter (landscape, portrait, still life, seascape, and on) quietly bludgeoning and caressing our senses daily.

Next, open your eyes and enjoy investigating new avenues for your feet as you take in bank lobbies, restaurants, offices, outdoor shows, museums, malls (really!), homes, galleries, sports arenas, bars (surprise!) – art is omnipresent, be

aware.

Third, get close and personal with the artwork so as to notice details and elements, like texture, brush strokes, nuances of color, line work vs. mass areas, light vs. dark, bright vs. neutral, cold vs. warm feeling, storytelling or reporting, and so forth. Be willing to experience and hear what the art is saying. If nothing grabs or intrigues you, then move on.

Fourth, if possible, create a budget (per art piece, year, whatever) you are willing to consider in order to establish some practical value boundaries, but only buy for art reasons, not because of price or urgency.

Don’t forget to make notes on all your preferences (time periods, artists, media, style, themes, etc) including the emotional and analytical so not to forget important facts.

Bottom line when all is said and done, make your choices based on and for you alone. Only you will be enjoying and living with your decision. If someone else is involved, then each of you do this; only have art that is desired and loved by one or both of you. The blank wall or table top won’t care, and you know for sure what I’d say about the couch.

Robert Schimmel is a professional artist and teacher in South Lake Tahoe as well as host of “Lake Tahoe Art Scene” on KTHO radio on Thursdays at 5:15pm.

Opinion: Inmates under county control offers a chance for

innovation

Publisher's note: ***This editorial is from the Nov. 13, 2011, Los Angeles Times.***

Californians shouldn't be surprised by recent reports, that county jails are filling up. Public safety realignment is no secret. After years of refusal to consider sentencing reforms, inability to provide adequate drug treatment, unwillingness to prepare parolees for lives outside prison and a continuing insistence on locking up more people longer, state prisons became so overcrowded that the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the population reduced. There was no appetite among the public or their elected representatives to build and staff more prisons. The state's options were to immediately release 33,000 inmates onto the streets, or to "realign": move much of the authority for inmates to the county level. Gov. Jerry Brown wisely chose the latter course. Counties now have to do what state government couldn't: make choices about whom to keep behind bars, whom to monitor at home with ankle bracelets, whom to refer for drug treatment.

The emergency realignment builds on a nationwide movement of more thoughtful, more deliberative decisions to incarcerate less and rehabilitate more. Many of the progressive innovations in criminal justice are coming not from supposedly liberal states and officials, but from conservatives who are determined to focus on cost and outcomes while keeping justice in the forefront. The group Right on Crime is setting the pace in states such as Texas. At the same time, leaders on the left, in California and elsewhere, have been conspicuously quiet about making realignment work. It's time for liberals who have long criticized the prison-industrial complex to redirect the local discourse from panic to progress.

There's no doubt that our current realignment program — the one that threatens to fill county jails — was less the result

of a thoughtful plan than a slap-dash move in response to crisis. It would have been preferable for California to move forward without such emergencies. On this issue, however, as with so many others, it didn't.

Read the whole story

S. Tahoe officials jittery about legalities of medical pot

By Kathryn Reed

Cities across California are fearful of what a medical marijuana decision out of Long Beach will mean to them as well as what the feds may do.

South Lake Tahoe and Sacramento's city councils on Tuesday wrestled with what to do with their respective ordinances. In predictable fashion, South Lake Tahoe couldn't make a decision. Sacramento voted to essentially put its 38 dispensaries on hold – with their permit application deadlines extended seven months.



After nearly three-dozen people spoke to the issue Nov. 15, the South Tahoe council voted to continue the meeting to Nov. 29 at 5pm.

The city has three dispensaries that are allowed under an

ordinance that was voted on in September. A separate ordinance regulates growing marijuana in residential areas.

One of the options discussed was similar to what Sacramento decided to do. Other alternatives include banning dispensaries or doing nothing – as in keeping the status quo. There is also the Berkeley method that essentially lets the collectives operate under a permit and not an ordinance.

City Attorney Patrick Enright was tasked with finding out more about what Berkeley does.

What many of the people at the Tuesday meeting didn't seem to get was the council has no desire to deny people medical marijuana. What they want to avoid is literally or figuratively having the feds come in with guns drawn.

The federal government in the past has used money as a way to force compliance – just look at how the states all have 21 as the legal drinking age instead of 18 and how speed limits are 65mph. The threat of federal dollars going away brought states to their knees.

South Tahoe would also like to avoid being sued. After all, as was pointed out by Councilwoman Claire Fortier, the Long Beach case was a result of the dispensaries not selected in a lottery system suing the city.

The Pack vs. Long Beach decision by a state appellate court says that city's medical marijuana ordinance violates federal law. The feds believe marijuana is an illegal drug.

A petition has been filed with the state Supreme Court. The court has until mid-January to decide if it will take up the case; then it could be another year before it does. An application has also been filed to have the Long Beach case de-published. This would mean the ruling would only pertain to Long Beach and nowhere else in California.

Michael Stallings, one of the few people who actually spoke to the issue at hand, was articulate as he expressed his desire to suspend permitting of dispensaries – essentially the route Sacramento took.

“The responsible thing to do is allow the state Supreme Court to rule,” Stallings said.

Kashon Kohler said, “Be bold and continue to stand up for your community. The country is learning from what is going on in Tahoe.”

Even though states are supposed to be able to govern themselves – and 17 have legalized medical marijuana – the Obama administration says otherwise. It is cracking down on weed as medicine. No firm number is out there as to how many collectives exist in California because not all are permitted by a city or county. Estimates range from 500 to 2,500.

South Tahoe Councilman Bruce Grego said he’s heard of two in the city limits that are operating beyond the three that are legally allowed.

Californians approved Proposition 215 in 1996. This allowed marijuana for medicinal purposes. Some have said the medical marijuana industry is a $1.5 billion business in California.

Not all cities are running from the feds. The Marin Alliance for Medical Marijuana is the oldest licensed dispensary in the state, having started 14 years ago. The Fairfax Town Council on Nov. 4 voted to keep the $1 million-a-year business operational despite the threat by the feds to prosecute the landlord.

In other action the council:

• Put off a decision and discussion about funding the economic analysis of the South Shore Vision until the Dec. 13 meeting.

• Agreed to go forward with altering business license fees.

The idea is the higher grossing businesses would pay more, while the smaller businesses would pay less. Councilman Tom Davis is against having automatic increases tied to the Consumer Price Index. It was left that the CPI would not be part of the new funding structure. However, that would ultimately mean the city would be collecting less from businesses than it does now because the current fee is tied to the CPI. No one on the council or staff brought the funny math to light. The council will have the business tax as a formal agenda item to approve in January, with the projected date for voters to cast a ballot being in June.

• Heard from Bill Crawford questioning why Measure S (now Measure R) bonds might become taxable. He also said the city should take over operation of the recreation bond instead continuing to have John Upton be the sole paid staff member.

• Sided with Michael McKinney in allowing him to be a BlueGo bus driver.

• Agreed to spend an extra $6,000 on the annual survey that goes out in December to be published in Spanish. This brings the cost to $16,000. Davis voted against it. Councilwoman Fortier had left for the TRPA meeting by this time.

• Was adamant in not wanting to increase fees for vacation rental owners. They were disappointed Finance Director Christine Vuletich didn’t bring forward ways to increase revenue. The fees are only supposed to cover the cost of doing business, not be a revenue generator. She was directed to bring back in more detail the idea of hiring a company that would be paid a percentage of taxes currently not being collected or fees not being collected.

• Wants to implement a utility cut fee so the entity mucking them up the roads would fix them.

Ideas about transportation in the basin being sought

Planners are still seeking comments from people concerned about transportation in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Two meetings earlier this month went over a variety of ideas.

People may enter their comments online until Dec. 3. The links below go to four areas where people can submit new ideas, vote on other ideas, or provide feedback directly to the TRPA transportation planners.

Summary

Complete Streets

Improving and Reducing Trips

Parking Management

There is also a YouTube video with instructions.

South Lake Tahoe Turkey Trot

The annual South Lake Tahoe Turkey Trot is Nov. 19.

Registration is at 10am, with the kids’ races at 11am, and adults at noon.

Kids free, while it costs adults 18 and up $2.

The event is at the South Lake Tahoe Recreation & Swim Complex at 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd.

All participants receive a hot dog or bagel lunch bag.

Winners in each age group receive a turkey and pumpkin pies to go second and third place finishers.

All participants and spectators are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for Christmas Cheer.

For more information, call (530) 542.6056.

Turkey Trot fun run in South Lake Tahoe

The annual South Lake Tahoe Turkey Trot is Nov. 19.

Registration is at 10am, with the kids’ races at 11am, and adults at noon.

Kids free, while it costs adults 18 and up $2.

The event is at the South Lake Tahoe Recreation & Swim Complex at 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd.

All participants receive a hot dog or bagel lunch bag.

Winners in each age group receive a turkey and pumpkin pies to go second and third place finishers.

All participants and spectators are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for Christmas Cheer.

For more information, call (530) 542.6056.