Nepheles, Silkwood wow crowd at Soroptimist wine tasting

A line at the table was a good indicator Silkwood would end up being the people's choice for best winery Friday night at the annual Soroptimist International South Lake Tahoe wine tasting.

The Modesto winery's Syrah is the only red wine served in first class on JAL.



Hundreds attend the Nov. 11 annual Soroptimist wine tasting. Photo/LTN

They started pouring early, having been in town the night before at a tasting at Blue Angel Café.

Cooking up the best food of the night was Nepheles with their elk and venison ragout.

The crowd of several hundred at Harrah's Lake Tahoe – noticeably larger than a year ago – came attired in all sorts of wardrobe selections. It's a definite people watching event as well as one with all sorts of food and wine to ingest.

The money raised by Soroptimist through ticket sales, raffle

and silent auction goes back into the community via programs directed toward woman and children.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

SnowGlobe announces slew of musicians for Tahoe event

Dozens of bands have been confirmed for the inaugural SnowGlobe Festival in South Lake Tahoe.



Besides three days of music Dec. 29-31 on the campus of Lake Tahoe Community College – all outside – discounted lift tickets for festival patrons, a rail jam and a midnight fireworks display on New Year's Eve are all part of the party.

Tickets and further details about the event are online.

To make sure no one gets a DUI or slips on black ice or runs into a snowbank, SnowGlobe is providing free shuttles to and from designated parking locations throughout the South Shore.

The festival will also offer a refill water program as a part of its greening efforts.

Bands are:

Bassnectar, Pretty Lights, Thievery Corporation, Glitch Mob, Childish, Gambino, Doctor P, Theophilus London, Big Gigantic, SBTRKT, Porter, Robinson, Figure, Paper Diamond, Dillon Francis, Emancipator, Tipper, Star, Slinger, Fishbone, Blockhead, Kraddy, Antiserum, Two Fresh, RUN DMT, The M

Machine, Mansions on the Moon, Eliot Lipp, Heyoka, HOTTUB, ill-esha, PhuturePrimitive, SAMPLES, B. Bravo, American Royalty, Govinda, R-D,, Robotic Pirate Monkey, Sorry For Partying, Dr. Israel, NastyNasty, and Mux Mool.

South Shore residents take time to honor veterans

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Veterans on both sides of the South Shore were honored Friday for the time they spent serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Veterans Day tributes started at 11am Nov. 11 in South Lake Tahoe as the American Legion honored those who have served and those who continue to.

Patty Smith, whose son Tim died in 2008 fighting in Iraq, recited a moving poem – getting choked up reading the segment "some have fallen".

In Stateline, the Tahoe-Douglas Rotary's noon program was the annual recognition of vets.

Brian Williams, who emceed the event, said three words bind Rotary and the military – "service above self" –the Rotary mantra.



Ben Lehman and
Frank Reynolds

Six World War II veterans were among the attendees. Most of the tables in the room at MontBleu had at least one vet – some guests, some Rotarians. They ranged from infantry to rear admiral.

Ben Lehman, the retired rear admiral, dressed in his Navy blues looked like he could command a ship today. He joined the military just after the invasion of Pearl Harbor.

As a 20-year-old with an engineering background, he was told by his bosses he would be well suited to design ships. They sent him to MIT, gave him a four-month apprenticeship and said if things didn't work out, there was always the South Pacific.

Some made the military a career. There were those who enlisted, and others who were drafted. Some saw combat, others did not.

But a certain pride emanated from each man who spoke – a selflessness, a commitment to those they served with, and to a country that didn't and still doesn't always understand the wars and conflicts they were involved in.

Bob Albertazzi, who works for South Lake Tahoe, was a guest Friday. Always one who speaks with a deference of respect to others, he didn't elaborate on his Army years (1968-93) that included stints in Vietnam and the Gulf War.

Frank Reynolds never thought he'd make a career out of the Marine Corps. He is still involved as a civilian as the

commandant for the Marine Corps League in Carson City.

A recruiter in May 1969 told him he would be going to Paris for boot camp. He was giddy. Parris Island, South Carolina – is what the recruiter meant. Reynolds finagled his way to San Diego instead.

He put in 20 years. Thought he was done. Then he got a call that he been activated for Operation Desert Storm. Reynolds said he spent most of his time roping goats, having snared one camel, too.

One vet had been in the current conflict in the Mideast, but didn't say anymore.

Fittingly, bagpiper Sean Cummings broke up the event with various military songs – offering a bit of levity, while keeping with the solemn tone of the afternoon.

Cause of S. Tahoe woman's death remains unknown

By Barbara LaBoe, Daily News

Skamania County authorities say they may never be able determine what killed the California woman who disappeared during the Rainbow Family gathering this summer east of Mount St. Helens.

An autopsy conducted by the Clark County Coroner's Office on the mostly skeletal remains failed to determine a cause of death for Marie Hanson, 54. Officials still are awaiting some toxicology reports, but Undersheriff Dave Cox said Thursday that it's possible they'll never know for sure how Hanson

died. And that will severely hamper the rest of the investigation into what happened to Hanson, who disappeared during July in the Skookum Meadow area of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

“There’s not a whole lot you can do if you don’t have the evidence to work with,” Cox said. “And with just the skeletal remains we don’t have the ability to say it was an accident or that she died from exposure or something else.”

Cox said officials don’t like leaving a case unresolved, adding he knows there have been rumors and questions about what happened to Hanson. “But without forensic evidence those answers are probably hard to come by,” he said.

Hanson, from South Lake Tahoe, attended the gathering on whim and never returned to her family.

Read the whole story

Pet owners worried about trapping regulations

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

The need to protect domestic pets from harmful animal traps, a risk of interfering with professional pest controllers and affronts to private property rights again are emerging as sensitive issues as state wildlife officials renew debate over urban trapping regulations.

A subcommittee of the Nevada Wildlife Commission held a workshop on the issue in Reno on Wednesday, two days after a similar forum in Las Vegas.

A draft proposal, stemming from legislation passed by the 2011 Legislature, would ban leg traps within 1,000 feet of homes in Washoe and Clark counties.

Animal advocates say that’s not near good enough, pushing Wednesday for banning traps much further from homes – perhaps by nearly a mile.

“The more comfort we can have, the better off we are,” said Trish Swain, organizer of the nonprofit group TrailSafe. TrailSafe successfully pushed to ban trapping near popular hiking trails near Mount Rose in 2006 and now is trying for expanded regulations in residential areas of Nevada’s most populous counties.

The Legislature directed the Wildlife Commission to pass trapping regulations after it failed to do so in 2010.

Read the whole story

Bread & Broth gearing up for Thanksgiving dinner

Bread & Broth’s 23 annual Thanksgiving feast is Nov. 21 from 4-5:30pm for anyone in need.

St. Theresa church is located at 1041 Lyons Ave. in South Lake Tahoe.



Bread & Broth's Turkey Day celebration is Nov. 21. Photo/LTN file

Roasted turkey is on the menu, as well as all the traditional side dishes.

In previous years, the volunteers have served as many as 500 people for this Thanksgiving meal. For many members of the community, this meal will be the only Thanksgiving dinner they will have.

Donations for the meal are needed, especially fresh cranberries, oranges, sausage, and canned fried onions. All food donations are accepted at the side door of Grace Hall on Nov. 18 from 9am-4pm. Money to buy food will also be accepted.

To find out how you can help Bread & Broth as a sponsor, donor or volunteer, contact Diane Weidinger at (775) 588.3993 or dianeweidinger@yahoo.com.

Ranger to join Eldorado

National Forest from SoCal

The Pacific Ranger District in the Eldorado National Forest has a new ranger – Richard Thornburgh.

He was selected to direct the day-to-day operations on the Pacific Ranger District, headquartered in Fresh Pond, three miles east of Pollock Pines. Thornburgh's district includes the Crystal Basin, a portion of Desolation Wilderness, and part of the Rubicon Trail.

Thornburgh

Thornburgh comes to the Eldorado from the San Bernardino National Forest where he's worked for the past five years. He starts the new job in January.

Tamarack Lodge earns LEED certification

Heavenly Mountain Resort's year-old Tamarack Lodge has received its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Tamarack Lodge is the first LEED-certified, on-mountain building at Lake Tahoe.

Heavenly worked with a LEED-certified commissioning engineer and design team to ensure the process was transparent and closely aligned with the U.S. Green Building Council's recommendations. The project features native and adaptive

plant species in re-vegetation and landscaping to reduce water consumption.



Heavenly's Tamarack Lodge is Lake Tahoe first on-mountain LEED building. Photo/LTN file

Fifty-six tons of construction waste were diverted from local landfills.

Ten percent of the total building materials were sourced from recycled materials.

Heavenly used low-emitting sealants and paints which kept the levels of volatile organic compounds well below recommended standards.

The Tamarack Lodge roof material was chosen carefully to reduce heat island effect, a term used to describe an area that concentrates heat leading to increased energy needs and green house gas emissions.

Many behind-the-scenes design features will allow for on-going energy and water savings making a lasting positive impact on the environment. ow-flush lavatories and other smart plumbing fixture designs will help Heavenly cut water consumption by 33 percent. Light timers and automatic control system will help reduce light pollution on the mountain and cut energy use in

the future.

Opinion: Humble start for a decorated sailor

Publisher's note: ***After the annual Memorial Day ceremony in South Lake Tahoe this year, Mayor Hal Cole was criticized by members of the public for not attending. When Lake Tahoe News learned he spends every Memorial Day with his World War II veteran father, Hal Cole Sr., we asked Cole to write a tribute to and about his father for Veterans Day.***

By Hal Cole Jr.

He was born July 24, 1922, in St. Louis, Mo. His young mother died five years later and he spent the rest of his childhood shuffled between orphanages, aunts and a stepfather. He had just turned 18, fresh out of high school, and was on his own in the midst of the Great Depression. He witnessed long lines for a single job opening or for a free bowl of soup.

As he boarded a trolley in the summer 1940 with no particular destination in mind, he spotted a billboard. On it a sailor in a clean, starched uniform was pointing directly at him with the words: "We Want You!" underneath. It was the first time in his young life that he felt there was a place for him.



Hal Cole Sr.

The next day he donned his best outfit, combed his hair, and with high hopes entered the local recruiter’s office. He was met by a pot-bellied, grumpy officer who had him fill out endless forms before putting him on a scale. At 5-foot-11 he weighed in at just 118 pounds, 2 pounds shy of the Navy’s minimum. To which the recruiter responded, “Go home son and come back when you grow up.” As tears welled up in the young man’s eyes, the grizzled old chief was visibly shaken. He dug in his pockets and pulled out 15 cents and told the boy to buy some bananas, drink as much water as he could and come back in an hour. Sure enough, upon his return the scale barely touched 120; to which the officer replied, “Congratulations, son, you’re in the Navy!”

So began my father’s journey that would take him to places he never dreamed of and horrors he could have never imagined.

As he exited the train in San Diego, my dad saw the ocean for the first time and a harbor full of warships dwarfing any Mississippi river boat he had ever seen. He was assigned to the USS Nashville, a Navy cruiser. After answering yes to three questions: “Can anyone here type?” (he had taken a class in high school) , “Anyone know Morse code?” (he was a Boy Scout) , and “Can anyone make coffee?” (how difficult could that be?), he was now a radioman.

With the bombing of Pearl Harbor one year later on Dec. 7, 1941, the fate of my father and our country would never be the same.

I offer this commentary not so much as a recounting of my father’s military career, but rather recognition of a generation that is rapidly disappearing. I’m sure, however, my dad would never forgive me if I didn’t at least highlight some of his exploits. He received two battle stars, was aboard the USS Nashville when it participated in the Battle of

Guadalcanal, escorted Jimmy Doolittle for his raid on Japan, carried Gen. Douglas MacArthur for his return to the Philippines in 1944, was hit by a kamikaze in December of that year that killed 133 of his fellow sailors, and not to be forgotten, he rescued actor Jason Robards from the sea after his ship sank.

My father's story is not unique. Thousands of young men have gone off to war defending our country, witnessing life-altering events. My dad was lucky; he came back alive. Now, at 89, he lives in Reno.

As I pause and reflect on this Veterans Day, I have much to be thankful for. I am blessed to be living in such a beautiful place, seemingly safe while war and bloodshed still plagues our world. I can only hope that the suffering our men and women in uniform have endured and continue to face will not be forgotten or taken for granted.

I am also thankful for what the military gave to my father. In addition to giving him three square meals a day for the first time in his life, the U.S. Navy taught him a trade and paid for his college education, which enable him to start a small business and support his family.

Thank you veterans everywhere and thank you, dad. Although you gave me your name, I will never be your equal.

Officials have handle on Zephyr Cove fuel leak

By Kathryn Reed

ZEPHYR COVE – A hum almost like a refrigerator emanates from the parking lot near Zephyr Cove Lodge and just before the pavement that leads to the cabins.

It's an air sparge unit, which pulls the fumes from the fuel spill area at the resort that then cycles through a charcoal filter.



A sparge unit near the underground tanks at Zephyr Cove Resort. Photos/Kathryn Reed

To the left of it, if looking toward Highway 50, are three strips of concrete. Buried below are three tanks, each able to hold about 10,000 gallons of fuel.

"We are looking at pulling those tanks out of the ground in the next month," Mike Gabor, U.S. Forest Service engineer, said at the site Nov. 9.

The Forest Service owns the land where the fuel leak was detected in late June. Aramark is the concessionaire and the entity responsible for cleaning up the mess. The Forest Service and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection are overseeing the cleanup.

Until no contaminated soil is detected, cleanup continues.

Several holes or wells in about a half-acre area have been drilled in order to determine if the gasoline is spreading. They will continue to be drilled until evidence of the fuel is completely gone.



Looking toward the lodge from the lake, the round item at the bottom of the photo is where a hole was drilled, the concrete behind and to the left of the sign is an underground tank, and the fenced off area to the right is the sparge unit.

Weekly conference calls are made between the property owner, concessionaire, state and the firm hired to do the cleanup so everyone knows the status of the operation.

While unleaded gasoline is moving via the groundwater toward Lake Tahoe and in other directions at a trickle of a pace, the lake has never tested positive for contaminants, nor has the

stream on the north side of the property.

“It was a very slow leak over a very long time,” is how Gabor described it.

The leak was noticed during maintenance – a fitting was not sealing properly. Those tanks have been in the ground since the 1980s.

Some time before the summer boating season Aramark will replace the tanks with above ground containers, which is more common at marinas.

“They will go somewhere in the parking lot,” Jamie Hodgson, Aramark district manager, said pointing north.

This will allow the resort to resume regular operations. This past season it did not have enough fuel to fill private boats; only its fleet of watercraft and the M.S. Dixie II.