Learn about Fremont’s discovery of Lake Tahoe

Walk in the footsteps of John C. Fremont as he travels over the mountain to Lake Tahoe in 1844.

On Sept. 20 at 7pm in the lodge of Camp Richardson, Peter Lathrop will show photographs and tell of his following the trail from Highway 395 to Round Top, along the western flank of Lover’s Leap and down to Sciots Camp. Bob Graham, author of “The Crossing” will give some of the details used.

The event is free and refreshments will be served.

Camp Rich Lodge is on the South Shore on Highway 89.

TRPA open house

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is having an open house Sept. 29 from 4-7pm at 128 Market St. on Lower Kingsbury Grade in Stateline.

The event will include live music, free food, activities for kids, and info-tours of TRPA programs and initiatives.

TRPA will also be announcing the winners of the Lake Spirit Award honoring people making progress maintaining the clarity, splendor, and beauty of Lake Tahoe.

To nominate someone, complete the nomination form by Sept. 19.

El Dorado supes expand Tahoe district beyond the basin

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

Without public or board comment, El Dorado County Supervisors gave their final approval to a redistricting plan for board seats today.

The plan's basic outlines were approved in July and got their first detailed approval in August, despite opposition from organized groups advocating better representation for El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park, the county's fastest-growing communities.



Norma Santiago

Supervisors approved the plan – which is likely to be in effect until 2021 – on a 4-1 vote, with Supervisor Norma Santiago dissenting.

Santiago had pushed to keep her district close to what it had been – just the Tahoe Basin portion of the county – but that district will now extend all the way to Pollock Pines.

Read the whole story

Chamber mixer

The last BAHM of the summer for Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce is Sept. 21 from 5:30-7:30pm at Tahoe Grille on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe. Cost is $10 for members, $20 for non-members.

Study: Growing coyote population impacting other species

By Spokesman-Review

A Oregon State University study suggests the repatriation of wolves in the West could help reverse the decline of Canada lynx.

Research published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin says a decline of snowshoe hares is a key factor in the Canada lynx being listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The loss of hares, the primary food of the lynx, may be caused by coyote populations that surged in the absence of wolves.

Scientists call this a “trophic cascade” of impacts.

Wolves are death to coyotes. Wolf packs hunt down and kill coyotes that enter their range.

Read the whole story

Douglas County hires 2 deputies for jail

Douglas County Sheriff's Department swore in two deputies this week – Steve Miller and Sean Thaler.

Deputies Miller and Thaler were hired to backfill two positions recently vacated as a result of Deputies Seth Russell and Ignacio Gonzales being recalled to active duty with the Army National Guard. Russell and Gonzales will deploy to Afghanistan.



Douglas County Undersheriff Paul Howell, from left, Deputy Sean Thaler, Deputy Steve Miller and Sheriff Ron Pierini at the swearing-in ceremony. Photo/Provided

Miller and Thaler will now undergo a rigorous 12-week jail training program to provide them the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their duties as jail deputies.

Miller was raised in the San Ramon area. With the U.S. Marine Corps, he was deployed with the 3rd Marine Recon to Iraq for combat duties.

Thaler was raised in Douglas County and is the son of former Douglas County Investigator Steve Thaler. He served as an officer with the Air Force.

Nevada to make campaign contribution info accessible online

By Sean Whaley, Nevada News Bureau

CARSON CITY – Members of the public interested in the esoteric world of political campaign contribution and expense reports should be salivating with the knowledge that as of Jan. 1, this information will finally be available in a usable format.

Secretary of State Ross Miller said as a result of campaign finance reporting reforms he sought and the Legislature approved this past session, the contributions candidates receive and the expenditures they make on their campaigns will soon be much more transparent.

His office staff is working now on creating a searchable database that will allow interested persons to examine the newly revised reports filed by elected officials and candidates in a number of different ways. The new reporting

requirements take effect Jan. 1, and Miller said his office intends to have the database ready on that date. The first use of the new search function will come as elected officials from across the state electronically file their annual reports for calendar year 2011 on Jan. 15, 2012.

As the reports are filed the information will instantly become available on the Secretary of State's website. No longer will officials be able to mail in reports, requiring manual loading of the information by Miller's staff. No longer will handwritten and sometimes illegible reports be accepted, with an exception for those who claim no access to the necessary technology.

At 12:01am on Jan. 16, all of the information from the Jan. 15 reports will be accessible. Sooner for those reports filed early.

"Mandating that these reports be filed electronically is the first step in putting the information in a way that is accessible to the public," Miller said. "And I think when this system is unveiled it will bring Nevada out of the Dark Ages of campaign finance reporting and finally shine a light on the campaign finance data to make it accessible in a format for the public."

State Sen. David Parks, D-Las Vegas, chairman of the Legislative Operations and Elections Committee that reviewed and supported the changes, said lawmakers made a lot of progress on the campaign reporting issue last session. But as one who must comply with the new requirements, Parks said he is looking forward to seeing the new reporting forms.

The easier it is for elected officials to complete the reports, the better the compliance will be, he said.

"I think we have an obligation to file reports that are well documented and as accurate as possible," Parks said.

Miller said people will be able to search for contributions by a contributor’s name or address, by specific amounts or by a date range. On the expenditure side, people will be able to search by the name of the person or business paid, by the amount, by certain dates or by expenditure types.

Other search options will also be available, and the data will be exportable into a PDF or CSV format.

Miller said his office will not be able to add information from reports filed by mail by elected officials and candidates in previous election cycles. But if a candidate or elected official previously filed a report electronically, that information will be available as well, he said.

Restoration work, fair part of Truckee River Day

The 16th annual Truckee River Day is Oct.16.

Volunteers will have their choice of half or full day restoration projects with different levels of difficulty. There will be 13 projects including revegetation for further restoration at Perazzo Meadows, plantings to restore the former Town Corporation Yard, and surveying for fish habitat in the Little Truckee River.

A celebration at the River Fair will follow the projects. The River Fair 1-4pm at Granite Flat Campground and will include food, live entertainment, environmental activities for kids and adults, and the annual fish release at 3pm.

Everyone is invited to the fair even if you’re not

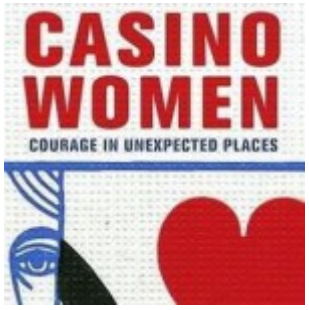
participating in restoration projects.

To participate in this year's festivities, go online or call (530) 550.8760. The deadline for registration is Oct. 7.

Book delves into women's role in corporate gaming

By Yun Long, Reno Gazette-Journal

Two UNR professors examine the role women play in corporate gaming in their new book, "Casino Women: Courage in Unexpected Places."



Associate professor Susan Chandler and associate professor emeritus Jill B. Jones spent 10 years interviewing housekeepers, dealers, union organizers and vice presidents about their struggles in the male-dominated world of global gaming.

"Part of it was, when you read about gaming, Las Vegas and Reno, it's all about men," Chandler said. "We wanted to give women a voice in that."

The authors profiled women like Geoconda Arguello Kline, an immigrant maid who helped build one of the most powerful unions in the United States – the Culinary Workers Union.

"So many women are leaders in the union, and we don't know anything about them," Chandler said. "They make a huge chunk of the economy run."

The book details several inspiring stories of union president

Kline, African American leader Sarah Hughes and staff organizer Mirna Preciado, who overcame fear and low self-esteem to organize thousands to join together to fight for better workers rights and benefits.

Read the whole story

S. Tahoe library putting on a royal party

Friends of the Library is having a royal Princess Party on Oct. 22 at 2 pm.

Wear royal attire, including crowns, tiaras and diamonds. Games, crafts and refreshments will be available.

Call (530) 573.3185 for additional information.

South Lake Tahoe Branch Library is at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.