

Saturday Mornings at SNC

Saturday Mornings, the award-winning morning discussion and lecture series collaboration of Sierra Nevada College and Incline Village Parks & Recreation Senior Programs, continue this fall.

College faculty and other knowledgeable locals present bite-size offerings of intellectually stimulating material to pique people's interest and challenge their sensibilities.

An optional continental breakfast will be provided for \$3.

Ann Ronald is an emerita professor at UNR. She has published nine books and countless articles about sense of place in fiction and literary nonfiction and was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame in 2006. As part of Nevada Reads she will be presenting her latest work *Friendly Fallout 1953* exploring the history of atomic testing in Nevada's desert and the impact on the people who participated and the civilian "downwinders."

She speaks Sept. 16 from 10am-noon at Sierra Nevada College, Prim Library, Room 213, 999 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village.

The event is free.

For details, contact Debi Noonan at (775) 831.1314, ext. 7420, dnoonan@sierranevada.edu.

Homewood, community plan

meeting

Homewood Mountain Resort officials will give a presentation on the proposed project Aug. 11 from 6-8pm in the Tahoe City Public Utility District board room. (221 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City)

This is an opportunity to learn more about the project and make your opinions known.

Additionally, there will also be some discussion during the meeting on the development of Community Plans by Placer County for the West and North Shores of Lake Tahoe. Placer County is developing the process and setting up local committees to work on the plans.

Chamber mixer

Northstar-at-Tahoe is hosting a North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce joint Chamber Business Mixer Aug. 9, 5-7pm in the Village at Northstar, 5001 Northstar Drive in Truckee.

Gypsy is the theme and attendees are encouraged to sign in at the Season Pass & Tickets Office to receive a map of the scavenger hunt along with a wristband. Participants will travel through the village to various locations listed on the map and receive stamps. Once they have all the stamps, mixer goers can enter into a raffle, which will take place at 6:45pm. Northstar will also be hosting appetizers, wine, beer and soda with live music from the Bourgeois Gypsies and a tarot card/palm reader.

Shopping specials will be extended that evening for chamber mixer attendees. This event is open to chamber members and non-members. No RSVP is required.

For more information about the mixer, call Kym Fabel at (530) 581.8764 or kym@puretahoenorth.com.

Identity theft workshops

As part of the Chamber Education program, the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Sierra Economic Development Corporation to host a Business Identity Theft Compliance Workshop on Aug. 10 from noon to 1:30pm at the Mark Twain Cultural Center, 760 Mays Blvd., Ste. 10, Incline Village.

Attendees will learn about identity theft laws and how they affect businesses, business liability when there is a breach, the types of identity theft and behavior awareness, as well as tools for creating a policy to protect their business.

The cost is \$55/person (payable in advance by mail or credit card), and participants need to bring their own lunch. To register, call (530) 823.4703 or email info@sedcorp.biz.

This class will also be repeated Sept. 22 in Tahoe City at Granlibakken Lodge and Oct. 26 in Kings Beach at the North Tahoe Event Center.

Clean up of soil at Zephyr Cove begins, more samples taken

With contaminated soil and groundwater found at the site of the fuel leak at Zephyr Cove Resort, more testing has been ordered.

More than 3 cubic yards of contaminated soil constitutes a reportable quantity, explained Cheva Heck with the U.S. Forest Service. The Forest Service owns the land on the South Shore where the leak was first reported in June.

Soil samples will be taken until one comes back clean. That gives officials the ability to determine how far the unleaded gasoline seeped to.

No drinking water has been threatened by the leak, nor has Lake Tahoe been affected. However, groundwater has tested positive for petroleum.

As a precautionary measure the tanks holding the fuel were pumped out today.

Aramark, which leases the property from the Forest Service, is looking at changing its fuel operations. Those plans would have to meet local, state and federal requirements.

Remediation plans will begin before the scope of the leak is known. Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Aramark are working those out.

The leak was discovered during the replacement of fuel pumps to two tanks that are a part of the underground storage tank system.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

CalFire coping with fewer firefighters on engines

By Peter Hecht, Sacramento Bee

Just north of Highway 180 in Fresno County, a wildfire in mid-June ate through thick grass, burning into oak woodlands and roaring up steep hills.

For firefighters, it appeared to be a routine event. Six engine teams, including five from CalFire and one from Fresno County, attacked from two sides. Firefighters carrying heavy, 300-foot hose extensions ascended the rocky terrain. They doubled back for additional hose, stretching their water lines and attempted to circle the fire before it leaped a ridge.

But, under state budget cuts, CalFire was battling the blaze with three firefighters per engine instead of the normal four-man crews used in the wildfire season. They couldn't get water around the fire in time. It jumped the ridge and devoured the next canyon.

The incident on what one fire captain called "a standard wildfire" stoked fear over whether staffing cuts are affecting first-strike capabilities of firefighters to stave off severe wildland events.

"I really thought we could catch it," CalFire Capt. Doug Freeman said. "Basically, with the fatigue factor (of using a three-man crew), we just couldn't."

Freeman summoned reinforcements as the blaze that he thought could have been kept to less than 10 acres spread to 133 acres and cost \$300,000 to put out.

As California closed a gaping budget deficit this year with sweeping cuts to numerous agencies, it saved \$34 million by cutting 750 seasonal CalFire firefighters. That means one less person per engine unit to haul thousands of feet of hose lines and share the exhausting physical rigors of battling wildfires.

In the Sacramento region, the cuts mean a total of 29 fewer CalFire firefighters in El Dorado and Amador counties and 44 fewer firefighters assigned to the Nevada, Yuba and Placer County region.

Read the whole story

LTWC open house

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care's open house is Aug. 7 from 10am-4pm.

This is the one time of the year the public is permitted on the grounds where the wild birds and animals are rehabilitated before being released back to the wild.

Various species to be seen include three bear cubs, five red-tailed hawks, seven barn owls, songbirds, raccoons, a coyote pup and a golden eagle.

Trained LTWC volunteers will be on hand to guide you through the grounds and describe the reasons the various wildlife are at LTWC, and the prognosis for their eventual release back to the wild.

Retail items will be available, including the newly designed Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care T-shirts and hats, posters, LTWC license plate holders and magnets and Li'l Smokey lapel pins.

The bear cubs will be on closed circuit "BEAR TV" to watch as they play in their little world.

LTWC is at 1485 Cherry Hills Circle, off Elks Club Drive in Meyers.

For more information, call (530) 577.2273.

Art, flavor and history of cheese in one event

Mose Roenberg of UC Davis will dissect cheese making's more than 9,000-year evolution to become a unique and complex technology enabling more than 2,000 different cheeses.

The event is Aug. 11, with a 5:30pm no -host bar and the program at 6pm.

Cost is \$10, which includes cheese tasting.

It is at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village.

Although cheese making is an ancient art, modern cheese production relies on the application of cutting-edge science and state-of-the-art fermentation technologies. If cheese was developed today, it would be hailed as a triumph of biochemistry.

Modern cheese making depends on the wise application of enzymes and microorganisms, complex fermentation approaches, sophisticated engineering and a dynamic series of biochemical cascades during cheese ripening (aging). A great diversity of cheese is produced from the same raw materials. The attributes

of cheese are dramatically influenced by the climatic, geological and agricultural characteristics of the region. Cheese Terroir provides unique cheeses from specific regions.

Taste a broad array of cheeses produced all over the world and discover the (almost) magical way by which milk is transformed into a rich spectrum of cheeses differing in their flavor, aroma, texture and appearance.

Rosenberg is a professor and dairy specialist. For additional details, contact Leanne Burns, (775) 881.7562, ext. 7474 or lkburns@ucdavis.edu.

Caregiving class

Caregiving is a difficult and often challenging role that one can undertake, and taking the opportunity to share information and feel connected to others who are providing care is a vital step to perform this task to the best of your ability.

Take the opportunity Aug. 11 from 5:30-7:30pm, South Lake Tahoe Senior Center at 3050 Highway 50 to become connected and rejuvenated at your local support group.

Refreshments will be served. Free respite care is available to qualified caregivers.

History: Recollections of people on the West Slope

Publisher's note: *This is reprinted with permission from the February 1976 Lake Tahoe Historical Society newsletter.*

On January 29, members had the pleasure of meeting Betty Yohalem who is collecting oral histories from pioneer families to be published as the El Dorado County Bicentennial book entitled *I Remember ...*



Upon their retirement from their motion picture work, Mrs. Yohalem and her late husband, George, settled in Placerville where he established the Pioneer Book Shop and she became a reporter with the Mountain Democrat, writing the "Our Yesterdays" column. Mrs.

Yohalem is now at the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce where her love affair with Mother Lode history is finding expression in her writing of this book.

Mrs. Yohalem displayed a collection of fascinating pictures obtained along with diaries and other documents from families she has interviewed. She also played excerpts from some of her tapes, including description by Amy Drysdale, 84 year old former editor of the Georgetown Gazette, of the fire and explosion in Georgetown during July 1897; recollection of such escapades as hiding slot machines from the sheriff by Irma Lawyer, also 84, who lives at the Temperance Hotel in Lotus but spends each summer at Uncle Tom's Cabin; and recollections of early days in Placerville by Lloyd Raffetto, founder of the Mother Lode Bank.

One of Mrs. Yohalem's favorite interviews was with Ruth Ward Corker, now in her eighties, a native of Georgetown, who is the granddaughter of Jonathan and Mary Ann Smith, who crossed

the country by wagon. During a brief stop by a stream, Mrs. Smith was shot in the back by an Indian while nursing her baby. The bullet went through her body and landed in the front of her dress. Surviving the incident, she continued on to settle in the Mother Lode area with her husband and children.

Mr. Yohalem also interviewed Rhoads Grimshaw who, until his recent passing at 84, was the oldest living helicopter pilot. He had the distinction of having set his helicopter down in the tracks of the wagon train in which his grandfather, one of the three founders of Placerville, had crossed the plains.

She also displayed pictures of Indian Diggings, now only a few shacks and an old cemetery off the Omo Ranch Road, but once a thriving community of 3000 with four hotels, nine saloons, and three grocery stores. Cone Jenny, the last Indian in the area who refused to go when the other Indians left, was over 100 years old when she was found dead at her little cabin in Indian Diggings.

Another of Mrs. Yohalem's favorite stories was her seeking out of a black man, Mr. Burgess, in Sacramento. Now nearing his 90th birthday, he was readily able to identify his father in a well known photograph of the Sutter Mill in Coloma.

One of Mrs. Yohalem's treasures was a copy of an 1897 issue of the San Francisco Examiner relating an interview with John Mattison (Matt) Harbin, who came to California with Dr. John Marsh in 1844. Calling himself the "King of the Mountain", Harbin related his naming of Donner Lake as Little Truckee Lake and Tahoe as Big Truckee Lake. He also claimed the honor of being the first millionaire in California. After spending some time in Mexico, he finally settled in Shingle Springs. His descendants, the Grays of Gray's Meadows, will be interviewed for the book.

Publication of *I remember...* is projected for this coming summer. Copies may be ordered in advance from the El Dorado

County Chamber of Commerce at a pre-publication price of \$20.00 plus tax for the first edition (\$25.00 when published). Also, a Limited Edition of 750 numbered copies, with special binding and slip case, including inserts of diaries, documents, and map, is available, pre-publication, at \$30.00 plus tax (\$35.00 after publication). Remittance should be enclosed with order to The Chamber at 542 Main Street, Placerville, California 95667.