Seth Meyers in Stateline

MontBleu goes comedic when “Saturday Night Live” funny man Seth Meyers takes the stage May 28 in Stateline.

A member of the “SNL” staff for the past nine years, Meyers is the show’s head writer, but is probably best known as the co-anchor of the “Weekend Update” segment and the other half of Tina Fey’s parodies of Sara Palin, with Meyers composing some of the sketches’ most memorable lines.

Meyers is also well-known for his impressions of Russell Crowe, Richard Dawson, Hugh Grant, Tobey Maquire and Ewan McGregor.

Tickets are $30/$40, plus fees.

Doors open at 8pm; show at 9pm.

Todd Rundgren at MontBleu

Todd Rundgren comes to MontBleu in Stateline on July 14 for a one-night concert.

His landmark albums have included such classics as “Bang the Drum”, “I Saw The Light”, “Hello It’s Me” and “Can We Still Be Friends.”

Rundgren’s production projects include albums by Patti Smith, Cheap Trick, Psychedelic Furs, Meatloaf, XTC, Grand Funk Railroad, and Hall And Oates.

This spring he released “Todd Rundgren’s Johnson” a fresh batch of songs in a tribute to early bluesman Robert Johnson.

Doors open at 8pm; show begins at 9pm. Tickets are $35/$50/$95, plus fees.

Labor-backed mailers attack Beth Gaines

By Torey Van Oot, Sacramento Bee

A labor-backed independent expenditure committee has launched a last-minute attack against Republican Beth Gaines in the 4th Assembly District.

Opportunity PAC reported this week that it has spent more than $9,000 on mail pieces opposing Gaines, a candidate in next week's special election to fill the seat vacated when her husband, Ted Gaines, was elected to the state Senate.

Read the whole story

Brandi Carlile in Stateline

Brandi Carlile plays MontBleu at Stateline on Aug. 2.

Hailed in 2006 by Rolling Stone magazine as its "Artist to Watch," Carlile's emotionally powerful songwriting and acoustic guitar work has crossed all boundaries between small venues and large stadiums, opening for such acts as Dave Matthews, Shawn Colvin, and India Arie.

Tickets are $25 in advance, $30 the day of the show. Doors open at 8pm; show begins at 9pm.

Private land the new frontier for pot wars

By Robert Townsend, California Watch

A little-spoken-of war is taking place behind California's fences and property lines: Trespassing marijuana growers are setting booby traps, resorting to violence and vandalism, and spoiling the land by stealing water and spraying dangerous chemicals that leach into streams.

As the federal government focuses on stopping illegal marijuana crops in public parklands and U.S. forests, sheriff's and state drug enforcement officials face the persistent and potentially dangerous problem of pot growers commandeering private land for their crops.

While some land owners fear violence, others face environmental havoc.

Read the whole story

Schools near Mt. Rose Highway

on lockdown

By Steve Timko, Reno Gazette-Journal

The Washoe County Sheriff’s Office said the man they are looking for in an incident off the Mount Rose Highway is Wade Richard Kelly, 52.

Kelly and a brother allegedly got into a fight at the home of his mother in the 16600 block of Callahan Road, the sheriff’s office said. His mother was not at the home at the time of the incident.

The sheriff’s office is preparing to go into the home to see if Kelly is inside. He may have fled. Authorities fear he may have guns.

Kelly is described as 5 feet, 10 inches tall with brown hair and blue eyes was last seen wearing a black-and-gray pullover shirt.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Obituaries should be treated with reverence

By Kathryn Reed

Obituaries are big business. A year ago, my mom spent more than $2,000 to place my dad’s obit in three publications.

It was free on *Lake Tahoe News*. It’s free to everyone, not just to my relatives.



The last picture taken of Kae Reed and her dad, Don Reed -- with Sue Wood and Cleo Reed in between. (November 2009)

I say this on the one-year anniversary of my dad's death to make the point that I find it shameful newspapers charge for obituaries – in print or online. It's almost inhumane.

Yes, I understand as well as anyone that a publication is a business. But I also understand that every life is a story.

No one charges a public agency for coverage of its meetings. No one pays to get a feature story written. A community announcement doesn't cost money.

Why, then, charge for an obituary? Does it really take up space that is better used for some other editorial space?

My answer is an emphatic *no*.

And why treat it like an ad? That really is treating the deceased with disrespect.

Nancy Hayden Oliver, who I worked with at the *Tahoe Daily Tribune* twice, taught me a few things when I was her boss. I learned the importance of letting people tell the story of the

deceased person through the obituary. She convinced me it's OK in that circumstance to use first names on second reference – instead of last name, as is customary in news stories.

She taught me that if there is a typo, you run it again. You fix it until it's correct. You only die once. It's imperative the accuracy of the obit live on factually.

I can't count the times I've spoken to the families left behind. It's amazing how the simplest of facts escape their memory. It's amazing how the person's life story flows like a novel.

I laugh. I cry. But mostly I listen.

I don't like writing obituaries. I feel guilty I have waited to know this person after I'm unable to speak to them. I feel a much different loss than the family – the loss of never knowing that person.

But those are actually the easier obits to write. It's when I know the person or the family that I have the hardest time holding it together. It's been even harder this last year. We're in this club together of having lost someone so incredibly important to us. Each death brings up my own sadness.

Death isn't easy. No one teaches us how to deal with it. We aren't supposed to talk about it. But it's real.

And it is so incredibly important how what could be the last (as well as first) thing published about that person be treated. The words about someone who has died deserve to be treated with respect and published in a manner that shows dignity.

When I worked for papers like the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Las Vegas Sun*, obits about well-known people were written ahead of time. This means all that has to be inserted are the

date of death, services, and a quote from someone. It may sound morbid, but it speeds up the process of getting the news out to the public.

I've thought about doing that for some people in the Lake Tahoe Basin and beyond – because, really, you could get that person's input. Yes, morbid, but let me tell you, I would rather write my obit than leave it to my grieving family. I know how hard it was for my three sisters, my mom, my aunt and I to massage my dad's obit. As an engineer, he probably would have it whittled to five paragraphs that cost a fraction of what mom paid.

Still, though, one point of this is to have you think about what you would want said about you. And then, if you think you will be the provider of information for an obit for someone, get the information out of him or her now. One day it may be too late.

Fish and Game struggles with gold mining in state rivers

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

It's gold vs. golden trout.

And gold vs. coho salmon. And gold vs. Shasta crayfish.

The California Department of Fish and Game is wrestling – under court order – with a new set of rules to control suction dredge mining in the state's rivers and streams.

Officials must take into account the health of aquatic species and aim to approve new rules by November.

It’s a tough task.

Dredge miners – several thousand individuals and hobby clubs – are angry about a moratorium in effect since 2009, and anxious to get back in the rivers now that gold is hitting $1,500 an ounce.

Many of the most popular areas are in the Mother Lode outside Sacramento. A survey of California miners listed Placer, El Dorado and Sierra as three of the top five counties for dredging visits.

Read the whole story

Online gambling crackdown puts poker world in limbo

Gary Mihoces, USA Today

Greg Raymer, whose $160 entry fee in an online poker tournament led to a $5 million win at the 2004 World Series of Poker, says it’s hard to tell how a federal crackdown on online gaming will affect WSOP entries this year.

But he’s a gambler. If he had to bet, he’d figure on a sizeable drop. The 2011 WSOP, a series of 58 events, starts May 31 in Las Vegas. Its Main Event, which begins July 7, had 7,319 entries last year.

“If I was actually putting a number to bet on, I would say more like somewhere in the low 5,000s (this year),” Raymer said by phone from his home in Raleigh, N.C. “If you made me pick a number because you were going to bet either over or under “» it would be something like 5,250.”

Last Friday, federal authorities in New York targeted three online gaming firms: PokerStars, Full Tilt Poker and Absolute Poker. Eleven people were charged with bank fraud and illegal gambling. Restraining orders were issued against about 75 bank accounts allegedly used to process payments in 14 countries.

Read the whole story

Opponents to Nevada bear hunting appeal state's decision

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Determined to stop Nevada's first black bear hunt in its tracks, organized opponents are appealing a regulation allowing the hunt passed by the Nevada Wildlife Commission last December.

Commissioners are tentatively scheduled to consider the appeal when they meet in Reno May 12.

The administrative appeal filed by the nonprofit group NoBearHuntNV.org attempts to invalidate the hunt on the basis the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Wildlife Commission failed to meet minimal public noticing and information requirements and failed to consider potential economic impacts to Lake Tahoe businesses.

The decision is also being challenged on the grounds it failed to provide an adequate wildlife management justification for the hunt and failed to properly employ science in estimating Nevada's bear population.

Critics of the hunt, slated to begin in August, remain incensed.

Read the whole story