Grapes & Gates

The 10th Annual Grapes & Gates, an evening of wine tasting and gourmet food to benefit the Heavenly Ski & Snowboard Foundation’s Scholarship Fund, is at Edgewood Tahoe beginning at 6pm May 11.

The event will feature local restaurants including Cafe Fiore, Cork & More, Embassy Suites, Latin Soul, Riva Grill and Thai One On. A variety of wineries will be represented.

A silent auction and raffle will be avaialbe.

Tickets for this event are limited. Prices are $75, $65 for foundation alumni. Reservations may be made by calling (530) 314.9285.

Pedestrian hospitalized, driver arrested in Truckee

On April 17 at about 8:10pm, Truckee police officers personnel were dispatched to a report of a vehicle vs. pedestrian collision on Donner Pass Road in front of the Sunset Mobile Home Park at 11700 Donner Pass Road.

The injured man was transported to Tahoe Forest Hospital by ambulance and later to Renown Medical Center in Reno for treatment of serious injuries stemming from the accident.

The driver of the vehicle, Ronald Sosnowski age 60 of Coronado, was later arrested for reportedly driving under the influence of alcohol.

This accident is still under investigation. Anyone who witnessed this collision is asked to contact Sgt. Robert Womack at (530) 550.2335.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Cinco de Mayo event benefits Family Resource Center

The South Lake Tahoe Family Resource Center's 8th annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration is May 6 from 5-10pm at Heavenly's California Lodge.

Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children ages 6-12 and free for kids under 6. There will be raffles, a silent auction, and music. Participating restaurants include: Latin Soul Restaurant, Chevy's Fresh Mex, Rigoberto's Taco Shop, Taco Bell, Lake Taco, Los Portales, Taco Taqueria, La Promesa and Los Mexicanos Restaurant.

Click on flyer for more information.

Lake County wants state Fish & Game to deal with quagga

mussel issue

By Elizabeth Larson, Lake County News

LAKEPORT -– Lake County Water Resources will seek the support of the Board of Supervisors this week in sending letters to the state to ask for changes in Fish and Game code that addresses the threat of invasive species.

County Water Resources Director Scott De Leon's report to the board states that he and his staff believe that, in order to strengthen the county's quagga mussel prevention program, State Fish and Game Code 2300 needs to be modified, and he's asking for the county to send state representatives letters to that effect.

That particular section of code governs aquatic invasive species and is up for reauthorization in January 2012, De Leon reported.

De Leon is proposing the addition of a requirement that all out-of-state boats or boats that have launched in infested areas have a "dirty boat sticker" that could only be countered by a "clean sticker" given by a Fish and Game or other authorized inspector.

Read the whole story

SNC poetry slam

Sierra Nevada College presents the Fifth Annual Tahoe Poetry Slam on April 29 at 7pm in Patterson Hall.

The evening is free and open to all. There are cash prizes for

the top three competitors.

The event is in Incline Village.

$250,000 donation helps Truckee animal shelter with building plans

A married couple who wishes to be unnamed recently bolstered the Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe's animal shelter campaign with a $250,000 donation.

The donation is the second $250,000 donation from an individual or family foundation for the new shelter. To date, the organization has raised about one-half of its $3 million goal.

The current 1,000-square-foot kennel was built in 1998 as a temporary holding kennel for abandoned, seized, and rescued dogs and cats. Through a partnership with Truckee, HSTT houses a limited number of animals at the shelter, and many more dogs and cats are in volunteer foster homes.



Heavy snows during a recent storm caused the roof of the current kennel's office to collapse, leaving the building unusable until it can be repaired.

The current kennel can only accommodate about eight dogs and 30 cats, although at times, there are upward of 30 dogs and 80

cats in need of shelter. Such limited space can terrify animals, often causing aggression and fights among dogs and stress-induced illness in cats. The kennel also lacks adequate space to quarantine sick or injured animals, and because of its location in the Town Corporation Yard, it is only open to the public two hours per week for adoptions.

HSTT has partnered with Truckee to share the cost of construction and operation of a new shelter. Approximately 1.5 acres of land have been secured at no cost to HSTT. However, in order to maintain the agreement with the town, HSTT must raise i5w portion of the funds before starting construction. While the recent donations have helped, the economic downturn has made fundraising more difficult than originally anticipated, and the organization is looking to the local community to help make the shelter a reality.

The new shelter was designed to accommodate current and future needs by an architect who specializes in shelters and veterinary hospitals. The facility will include real-life rooms for dogs and large, colony-style cat rooms, with perches, windows to the outside, and natural sunlight.

The building will include an education and training center, allowing HSTT to expand its humane education, dog training and pet assisted therapy programs. Open daily to the public, the new shelter will provide a convenient location for people to meet and adopt their future pets.

Opinion: Revised S. Tahoe

cultivation ordinance works

Publisher's note: ***South Lake Tahoe's cultivation ordinance is on the April 19 City Council agenda. The meeting starts at 9am at Lake Tahoe Airport.***

By Steve Kubby

South Lake Tahoe City Manager Tony O'Rourke and City Attorney Patrick Enright have proposed a new medical marijuana cultivation ordinance with reduced penalties and improved security for patients from ripoffs and raids. The new version will lower the penalty from a misdemeanor with jail time to an infraction and reduce fines from $1,000 per day to $100 for the first violation. Also, building permits will not have growers' names or addresses, to protect against disclosing information publicly that could be abused by burglars and rogue federal drug agents.

City officials recognize that many patients who grow are struggling just to get through each day and lowering the penalties and fines will make these patient's lives a bit easier for them. Those who only grow small amounts will be pleased to learn that gardens which consume under 20 amps will not need to register. Of course, those who abuse the law and trash homes can still be charged for serious crimes, based upon illegal activities and/or property damage.



Steve Kubby

This new ordinance is now a model of tolerance and safety, thanks to efforts by local dispensary operators Gino DiMatteo,

Cody Bass and Matt Triglia as well as the extraordinary cooperation of the city manager and attorney. As a result, the city of South Lake Tahoe has created a marijuana cultivation ordinance that will be setting an example for cities and counties across the country.

Of course, there are those who will argue that marijuana is still against federal law and that the city has no business protecting patients or issuing permits. However, the city of South Lake Tahoe has every right to regulate and protect marijuana cultivation, because the voters of our state have said so and because the DEA continues to ignore the will of the voters and continues to fraudulently and illegally list marijuana as a Schedule 1 controlled substance.

The fact is the U.S. Controlled Substances Act lists very specific conditions for a substance to be designated as Schedule 1. In order to remain on this list, all of the following conditions must exist:

(A) The drug or other substance has a high potential for abuse.

(B) The drug or other substance has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.

(C) There is a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug or other substance under medical supervision.

Considering that California physicians have safely supervised hundreds of thousands of medical marijuana patients, since the passage of Proposition 215 nearly 15 years ago, it should be clear that marijuana no longer qualifies as a schedule 1 substance.

On Feb. 1, 2011, U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag (Northern District of California) wrote a letter to John A. Russo, Oakland city attorney, in response to an Oakland City Council request for guidance regarding medical marijuana and federal law. The memo

was written with consultation and approval from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. In that memo, Haag repudiated President Obama's campaign promise to respect state medical marijuana laws: "We will enforce the CSA vigorously against individuals and organizations that participate in unlawful manufacturing and distribution activity involving marijuana, even if such activities are permitted under state law."

Despite these threats and fraudulent assertions by the DEA and U.S. attorney, the courts have determined that "currently accepted medical use" does not require FDA approval or more than one state to recognize the medical use of cannabis. Once California passed Proposition 215, cannabis should have been immediately rescheduled. Instead, government at every level perpetuated this fraud and continued to arrest, prosecute and incarcerate citizens based upon a classification that was obsolete and kept in place to target and punish a particular group within society.

Here are the facts:

– Federal regulation, 21 C.F.R. § 1308.11(d)(22), says marijuana has no accepted medical use in treatment in the United States. However, not one state has asked the federal government to remove it from that classification.

– We have a United States Supreme Court ruling that tells us these federal regulations do not trump state laws on accepted medical treatments, Gonzales v. Oregon, 546 U.S. 243 (2006).

– We have a very solid federal court ruling that says accepted medical use in treatment in the United States does not mean everywhere in the United States or FDA approval, Grinspoon v. DEA, 828 F.2d 881 (1st Cir. 1987).

Fortunately, the South Lake Tahoe City Council will have an opportunity to do the right thing and protect the health and safety of our patients, as well as our homes, with an ordinance that we can all be proud of.

Steve Kubby played a key role in the drafting and passage of Proposition 215. He has written two books on drug policy reform and serves as executive director of the American Medical Marijuana Association.

Math and Science Career Day for grades 6-8

South Lake Tahoe AAUW and Lake Tahoe Community College are co-sponsoring a Math and Science Career Day for girls in grades 6-8 on April 30 from 9am-3pm at the South Lake Tahoe college.

The goal is to encourage middle school girls to become interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers.

The keynote speaker will be an orthodontist with workshops featuring local women currently working in geology, wildlife biology, medicine, mathematics, physics and chemistry.

The event will feature hands-on learning and real-life connections to careers in math and science.

The first 60 girls to sign up will have the opportunity to attend this event and familiarize themselves with the college campus.

Lunch is provided free to all attendees.

Preregistration is required. Contact Bev Palley at (530) 544.2724 or bpalley@sbcglobal.net by April 25. Further information is also available online.

Ski report: Wear something waterproof



Mix of rain and snow at lake level, and snow at the 8,000-foot level this morning.

Mt. Rose is closed today because of high winds.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Meeting for potential Desolation Wilderness volunteers

The U.S. Forest Service is looking for volunteers who love working outdoors, enjoy talking to people, and are dedicated to preserving one of our nation’s most popular wilderness areas, Desolation Wilderness.

Desolation Wilderness is approximately 63,960 acres of sub-alpine and alpine forest, granite peaks, and glacially-formed valleys and lakes located west of Lake Tahoe and north of Highway 50 in El Dorado County and jointly managed by the

Eldorado National Forest and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

The public is invited to attend the volunteer orientation to learn about the different opportunities, what is required and how your help is important to the preservation of Desolation Wilderness.

The meeting is May 4 at 7pm, LTBMU office, 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe.