Control burn on Upper Kingsbury Grade

U.S. Forest Service fuels management crews will be conducting prescribed fire operations on Kingsbury Grade near North Benjamin on April 13.

The project area is approximately 10 acres and operations may continue through Friday.

Residents and travelers can expect to see smoke from prescribed fire project areas.

Year-round residents at Serene Lakes not evacuating

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

More than 20 propane tanks were still leaking Monday evening, and a voluntary evacuation initiated over the weekend remained in effect for Placer County's Serene Lakes subdivision.

But year-round residents said they were staying put, despite concerns about explosions like one that leveled a three-story home in the mountain enclave near Soda Springs on Friday night.

"The main issue is for people who are not (year-round) residents," said Malinda Caven, a six-year resident of Serene Lakes who said she makes a point of keeping snow from piling up on her propane tank and lines leading to her house.

Richard Simmons, program manager for the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, said 28 leaks have been reported on the county's east slope, and as of late Monday afternoon, six of those had been repaired.

Read the whole story

Cafecitos group gives thanks for community's support

To the publisher,

On March 21, members of the Sierra House Cafecitos group as well as some parents from that school got together to conduct a tamales sale fundraiser that will benefit the school.

The group of dedicated volunteers would like to express their gratitude to the local stores that donated materials and food for this event. They especially would like to thank Juan Ibarra, owner of El Rosal Mexican restaurant in Sparks, who donated 50 pounds of masa dough, a crucial component in the elaboration of tamales.

Cafecitos is a parent-led group that meets every Thursday at Sierra House Elementary School. Its goal is to enhance parent participation in the academic and social lives of their children.

For more information about this group, contact Arturo Rangel at (530) 541.4660.

Arturo Rangel, group coordinator

Reno River Festival

The Reno River Festival returns to downtown’s Truckee River Whitewater Park for year No. 8 on May 6–8.

The festival’s three days of nonstop outdoor fun includes live music and entertainment along with the return of crowd favorites such as the Friday night Kick-Off Party and concert with English Beat, 4th annual Run Amuck run and stand-up paddle board, boatercross and freestyle competitions featuring some of the world’s top whitewater athletes.

The 2nd annual Humans in Motion short video contest also hits screens again, featuring a $1,000 grand prize, in addition to the return of the Holland Project’s annual Double Dutch battle.

To register or for more information, go online or call (775) 784.9400, ext. 119.

Wage gap in Nevada – women make $7K less than men

By Reno Gazette-Journal

New research shows that on average, full-time working women in Nevada are paid $7,734 less per year than their male counterparts.

In Nevada, on average, a woman working full time is paid

$35,691 per year, while a man working full time is paid $43,425 per year.

The study was released Monday, the day before Equal Pay Day. Today marks how far into the new year women must work to catch up with what men were paid the year before.

Unequal wages are harming both families and the state economy, according to the National Partnership for Women & Families and the American Association of University Women, the two entities that jointly produced the research.

Read the whole story

Ski report: Bluebird day in Tahoe



Lather on the sunscreen, it’s a gorgeous day at the lake.

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

Nevada man arrested in South Tahoe on Bay Area homicide charges

By Gary Klien, Marin Independent Journal

A 77-year-old Nevada man was arrested Monday in connection with the slaying of a woman in Marin County in the 1970s and three other homicides in different counties, authorities said.

Joseph Naso, a Reno resident, was arrested in South Lake Tahoe following his release from the El Dorado County Jail in an unrelated case. He was transferred to Marin County Jail, where he was booked on suspicion of four counts of murder.

Read the whole story

Salsa contest fires up riders at Sierra

By Kathryn Reed

TWIN BRIDGES – It was hot, hot, hot at Sierra-at-Tahoe and it wasn't just because the sun was beating down.

The fourth annual Salsa Showdown was April 10 at the ski resort. Thirty contestants entered this year's event that drew a throng of people to the West Bowl area for much of the day.

Trays of salsa in little plastic containers kept being put in front of the judges with tortilla chips. Some judges were

waving at their mouths and taking gulps of water to contend with the heat coming from the spicy entries.



All the ingredients for a salsa contest -- salsa, chips, margarita, water, scorecards. Photos/Kathryn Reed

This year the salsas were broken into two categories – spicy traditional and fruits.

John Rice, general manager of the resort and one of the judges, raved about a watermelon cucumber salsa he had just tasted. He was impressed with many of the fruit salsas.

Leah Rademacher won the fruit salsa category.

“I found two recipes online and merged them,” Rademacher told the crowd after being named the 2011 salsa champ. The honor earned her a season pass at Sierra for 2011-12.

Judges said it was unanimous for Rademacher to be the victor.

Brothers Rudy and Roman Pulido won the spicy contest. They were making the salsa right until the entry deadline Sunday morning.

Although Craig Lebaron was disappointed his entries didn’t win, he was generous with sharing his salsas with those lounging in Adirondack chairs in short sleeves. Contestants were only supposed to enter once, so he put one of his salsas under buddy Shaun Keay’s name.

Lebaron’s spicy recipe is below. Although I have not made it, I did try it. It goes down almost mild, but then has a lingering kick that makes me want to add this to my recipe files.

“The key is to put salt in and blend, then taste,” Lebaron said. “Salt is what gets you compliments.”

But he cautions to start slow with the salt and add as necessary. The same goes for the garlic.

Lebaron uses organic tomatoes because they are smaller and don’t have the waxy film on them.

La Sierra Salsa

8 tomatoes

6 jalapenos

10 Serrano chilies

Half onion

3 tomatillos

2 cloves garlic

50 cilantro leaves

Salt, to taste

Sear first five ingredients on stove or barbecue until slightly black.

Put roasted vegetables in blender with garlic and cilantro.

Taste. Add more salt if necessary.

This is enough to fill one Mason jar.

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Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Douglas County commissioners voted unanimously this month to support a bill in the Legislature that would have Nevada no longer be part of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

• On May 4, Bona Fide Books of Meyers will launch its first publication, “Permanent Vacation: Twenty Writers on Work and Life in Our National Parks” with a reading at Lake Tahoe Community College in South Lake Tahoe at 7pm.

• A meeting about the El Dorado Beach to Ski Run Boulevard bike trail will be April 18 from 6-8pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center, 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

• April 20 from 5:30-6:30pm is a meeting about South Lake Tahoe’s Sierra Tract erosion control project in City Council chambers at the airport.

• Kirkwood Mountain Resort has closed the backside for the season.

Film explores epic Pacific Crest Trail

The Pacific Crest Trail and Tahoe Rim Trail associations are showing the National Geographic film, “America’s Wild Spaces: The Pacific Crest Trail” on May 31 at 6pm.

This hourlong film chronicles the peaks and valleys of the epic 2,650-mile-long Pacific Crest Trail. This trail stretches from Mexico to Canada, cutting through seven national parks and 24 national forests.

The PCT and TRT run concurrently for approximately 50 miles along the West Short of Lake Tahoe.

The film will be show at Explore Tahoe: An Urban Trailhead, located at 4114 Lake Tahoe Blvd. near the Heavenly Village.

Parking is available in the public garage for a flat rate of $5 after 4pm. Space is limited, so make your reservation early.

For more information, contact Max Baker at (775) 298.0239, or Lauren Thomaselli at (530) 542.4637.