Bahrke joins Santa at Squaw Creek

Two-time Olympic medalist Shannon Bahrke, who was raised in Tahoe City and mastered moguls in her years on the Squaw Valley Freestyle Team, will join Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Olympic Valley to launch the Magical Memories holiday celebration Nov. 26 from 5-8pm.

This event also includes The Gingerbread Village Unveiling and Grand Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Report: Climate change will drastically alter Lake Tahoe

In 90 years, the snowpack in the Lake Tahoe Basin is expected to be about 50 percent less than it is today.

This and other facts are detailed in a report released Nov. 15 by UC Davis scientists.

It is being called the most detailed forecast to date of likely climate-change effects at Lake Tahoe.



Lake Tahoe's

shoreline may increase more with climate change. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Flooding is expected to increase by mid-century, prolonged droughts will become more common at the end of the century, and “a new threat to the lake’s unique ecology, one that will come from the very bottom of the lake, will become important by the second half of the century.”

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management paid for the study with Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funds. The lead authors are Robert Coats, a UC Davis researcher and consulting hydrologist; John Reuter, associate director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center; and Geoff Schladow, the center’s director.

The report combines findings drawn from 100 years of data and computer models to produce detailed local projections out to 2100.

The scientists considered two possible future carbon emission scenarios – one “business as usual” – in which population growth and national and international policies affecting global climate change remain unchanged – and the other “optimistic,” assuming slower growth and aggressive climate action.

– Kathryn Reed

Tribute dinner for chef Paul Abowd

The Paul Abowd Tribute Dinner is a culinary love note to a man who has owned myriad Northern Nevada restaurants since the 1950s and is still manning Reno's Stone House Café kitchen.

At this gastronomic Super Bowl, Abowd and fellow diners will be feted by chefs like Gregg Carano of the Eldorado, Jorge Flores, the Stone House Café; David Silverman, Silver Peak Brewery; Craig Rodrigue, Truckee Meadows culinary arts program; Troy Cannan, from Lulou's and the Eldorado, and of course the ringleader Charlie Abowd. Each chef will have a chance to speak about their thumbprint on the menu and their relationship with Paul Abowd.

Adding to the feel-good vibe of the event is its non-profit beneficiary, The Greenhouse Project. Its mission is to establish and operate a community-based greenhouse using renewable energy sources and ecologically sustainable growing methods. With a focus on environmental stewardship, it will provide educational and vocational opportunities for students, youth groups and special needs individuals. It will also provide year-round organic produce to agencies serving low-income Carson City residents. For more information, go to carsoncitygreenhouse.org.

Event Details:

* Paul Abowd Tribute Dinner will feature a seven-course dinner with each course prepared by a different chef. Adele's Anthony Kingland will match the wines. The dinner will highlight Nevada sourced produce, wine and meat.

* When & Where: Nov. 21 at 5pm at Eldorado Hotel and Casino, Reno.

* Tickets: Tickets are $150 per person and are available at the Stone House Café, Adele’s Restaurant and Lounge, J’s Old Town Bistro, Lulou’s, Silver Peak Brewery and the Cracker Box. For more information, call Adele’s at (775) 882.3353 or the Stone House Café at (775) 284.3895.

* Menu: Visit the website for a complete menu.

Boxer Pacquiao brings his music act to Harrah’s Tahoe

Publisher’s note: ***A bruised Manny Pacquiao will be at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe Nov. 16 with his band.***

By Barry Horn, Dallas Morning News

Perhaps the five kind souls on the California athletic commission were doing Antonio Margarito a favor when they refused to license him to fight Manny Pacquiao.

Here in Texas, boxing’s regulatory body welcomed Margarito with open arms. In the wake of the beating he took Saturday night from Pacquiao, Texas will be sending Margarito home to Mexico after he undergoes surgery Tuesday to repair a fractured socket around his right eye.

Promoter Bob Arum delivered the medical report Sunday afternoon. He said Margarito was taken to Methodist Dallas Medical Center immediately after the fight at Cowboys Stadium. Doctors are waiting for the swelling to go down before operating, Arum said. He added that the damaged orbital was Margarito’s lone medical problem.

Pacquiao mugged Margarito for 36 minutes before 41,734

eyewitnesses in capturing the WBC's 154-pound world championship. The judges' decision wasn't simply unanimous, it was lopsided. One scored it 12 rounds to none. One had it 11-1, and the third had it 10-2.

A 112-pound champion as recently as the final month of the 20th century, Pacquiao has climbed the championship ladder to 122, 126, 130, 135, 140, 147 and now 154 pounds. No one ever had won titles in eight weight divisions. He now weighs in as a legitimate contender for the title as "greatest of all time."

Read the whole story

'Race to Nowhere' at SNC

Educators, administrators, parents, and college students packed two rooms in the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences at Sierra Nevada College on Nov. 4 for a screening of the educational documentary "Race to Nowhere".

In response to public demand, "Race to Nowhere" will be screened again Dec. 2 at 7pm at Sierra Nevada College, Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences, Room 106.

The film highlights the mounting pressures and stresses children experience – from elementary school through high school – in an effort to gain admission to top colleges.

"Race to Nowhere" was the first presentation of the 2010-11 "Discussions on Education Series" co-sponsored by the Teacher Education Department at Sierra Nevada College and the Lake Tahoe School. More than 140 people attended the event from around the Lake Tahoe Basin including Incline Village,

Truckee, Tahoe City, and South Lake Tahoe.

The ongoing discussion series will explore the American school system from provocative, at times opposing, perspectives with the intent to create positive dialogue about the challenges facing education reform in the U.S. and local communities.

All events in the series are free and open to the public but please register your attendance at http://rtnsierranevada.eventbrite.com. For more information, contact Katrina Midgley at (775) 831.1314, ext. 7517, kmidgley@sierranevada.edu, or Mary Danahey at marydanahey@gmail.com.

West Slope land bought for preservation

A 272-acre ranch in El Dorado County was bought by the American River Conservancy for $3.3 million.

This area near Coloma is thought to be the first North American site settled by Japanese colonists.

A public park and museum are planned.

The former Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony was used for silk worm farming and growing rice, tea, stone fruits and bamboo.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe

This week's listing:

Star is a pretty, spunky 8-year-old Chow Lab mix, all black except for a little white around her chin. She likes to play with other dogs and even gets along with cats. She has a lot to say and will tell the bears to stay out of her yard.



Star is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with other dogs, cats, and even rabbits.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, click here.

– Karen Kuentz

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• The November issue of *Ski* magazine has a good write-up on Kirkwood. The cover story is about where to ski with kids. Runs at Heavenly, Northstar, Squaw and Mammoth are mentioned.

• Jay Brazil of South Lake Tahoe took second in the masters division of the North Coast Classic combined surf/golf competition that raises money for Doctors Without Borders.

• North Shore artist Cathy McClelland is donating a percentage of her holiday bear cards to the BEAR League.

• American Airlines and Vail Resorts are partnering to offer Epic Pass holders 10 percent off certain flights to Reno, Vail, Denver, and Eagle airports.

• Bona Fide Books has awarded Jason Schossler the 2010 Melissa Lanitis Gregory Poetry Prize for his manuscript Mud Cakes.

• Elija Bleu's in Truckee is giving away tasty treats to students who bring in a report card with a 3.0 gpa or better.

Northstar adds to its stable of professional snowboarders

Torstein Horgmo, one of the world's top riders, has joined the Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort Professional Freestyle Team and will represent the resort in competitions including the Winter Dew Tour, Winter X Games and other high profile winter events.

Horgmo, who is from Norway, was the first to land a triple cork off a park jump.



Torstein Horgmo

Horgmo began snowboarding in 1999, was sponsored in 2004 and turned pro in 2009. He has consistently placed among the top finishers in high profile events including the Winter Dew Tour, WIIG Invitational, Arctic Challenge and Winter X Games over the past three years, including a first place finish in the Winter X Games Big Air in 2008, and second place finishes in 2009 and 2010. Horgmo, is also featured with a top-to-bottom Northstar-at-Tahoe Resort park run in the recently released 2010 Standard Films movie “The Storming.”

Rotary brings relief to disaster locations worldwide

By Kathryn Reed

No home. No running water. Nowhere to sleep. Nothing to cook with. No clothes.

That’s often the end result for people in disasters. They are left with nothing. ShelterBox has been providing interim help around the world since 2000. It’s a stopgap program.



Ryder Evans talks about what is in a ShelterBox. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Boxes weighing about 100 pounds are flown into whatever area needs it. Today volunteers are in five countries, though only limited in Pakistan because of safety issues.

“Part of our mission statement is to bring dignity to people,” explained Ryder Evans. As a member of the Tahoe-Douglas Rotary, he has become a volunteer for ShelterBox.

ShelterBox was launched by Rotary in England and has since spread to its chapters around the world.

“ShelterBox is the only international aid organization that provides shelter and life-saving equipment for survival in an easily transportable box,” according to literature provided by Evans when he spoke to Soroptimist International Tahoe Sierra last week.

In August, Evans was deployed to Brazil to help with the flooding that displaced more than 100,000 people. Logistics of getting the aid to the people is often the most cumbersome part of the process. Customs can be an issue.

The mud and water in Brazil were in such abundance that tents would not have been able to be erected. This meant coordinating heavy equipment to bring in graders and then loads of gravel to provide a stable surface.

Evans explained that response teams have a tremendous amount of latitude to do what is necessary to bring help to the people on the ground. With resources being different in each country and the nature of each disaster unique to itself, flexibility is the key.

With much of the work being done in Third World countries, the tents can be an improvement over what the refugees had before the disaster.

The tents aren’t your ordinary family camping tents. They can sleep six to 10 people, are spacious, and allow people to standup and move around.

Most of the boxes contain the same basic items – the tent, blankets, ground sheets, stove, cooking utensils, tools, water purification equipment, ponchos, mosquito nets and children’s activity pack. Depending on the location, items can be substituted – for instance, some places may need more blankets, others might not be able to use propane to cook with.

Boxes cost about $1,000.

Although ShelterBox is a Rotary project, others may volunteer to be on a response team. Usually two to four people comprise a team.

More information is on the website or call (941) 907.6036.