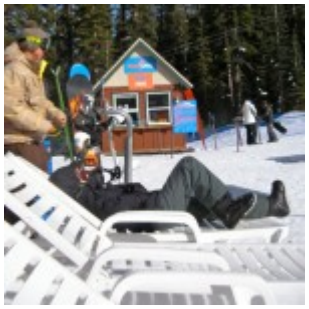
Tahoe ski resorts looking for local employees

By Kara LaPoint, Reno Gazette-Journal

It’s only September, but the time has come for those seeking resort employment this ski season to start thinking about winter.



“We’re at that transition point, where summer operations are winding down, and we’re looking ahead to winter season,” said Kirt Zimmer, director of marketing for Tahoe Donner Association.

Hiring time is just around the corner, and resorts around the Tahoe area are gearing up for annual job fairs and assessing their employment outlook for the coming season. Overall, resorts said they’re looking to hire at least as many employees as last year, and in some cases more. At several resorts, new developments are the reason for an increase in positions.

While demographics vary, many resorts have indicated that local employees will comprise the bulk of their staffs.

Read the whole story

Throngs of motorcyclists to

descend on region for Street Vibrations

By Reno Gazette-Journal

When Street Vibrations roars into Northern Nevada on Wednesday, the five-day celebration for the first time will take over downtown Reno, downtown Sparks and Virginia City.

For the first time in years, bikers will be able to park their bikes on Virginia Street from Second to Sixth streets.

“From day one, people in the motorcycle rally always believed they had a god-given right to park under the Reno Arch,” said Randy Burke Roadshows Inc., the event’s producer.

And the tricked-up, custom bikes are what people come to see.

Read the whole story

Wreck snarls traffic on I-80 at state line

By Reno Gazette-Journal

7:55 a.m. update: Interstate 80 is expected to be closed in both directions at the Nevada-California line until about 9 a.m. as crews clean up an accident, the California Highway Patrol reports.

Additionally, drivers in both directions can expect delays until about 11 a.m. as crews repair a divider wall damaged by a tractor-trailer crash this morning.

The Nevada Highway Patrol has escorted a tow truck to the scene of a crash on Interstate 80 about three-quarters of a mile west of the state line, the CHP dispatch in Truckee reported.

Read the whole story

Congressional candidate in South Tahoe

There will be “meet and greet” for Clint Curtis, the District 4 candidate for U.S. Congress, on Sept. 26 at 3pm.

For full information, check out the Lake Tahoe Democratic Club website.

Gibbons recovering from fall off horse

By Reno Gazette-Journal

Gov. Jim Gibbons remained in the hospital overnight after taking a fall off a horse north of Pyramid Lake Tuesday afternoon, spokesman Dan Burns said this morning.

Burns said he is heading to Renown Regional Medical Center to get an update on Gibbons’ condition.



Jim Gibbons

Read the whole story

Extrication drill keeps firefighters sharp for real emergency

By Kathryn Reed

By the time firefighters were done, it looked like a wrecking yard at the end of Lodi Avenue. Mangled vehicles littered the pavement that in winter is used by Caltrans crews as snow storage.

“It gave guys a chance to cut the doors off, roofs off and all the normal stuff we do in a good vehicle wreck to get to patients. They pushed the dash out to make room for people’s legs,” explained Tyler Jack, South Lake Tahoe firefighter.



South Shore firefighters practice extrication drills. Photos/Tyler Jack

As the department's vehicle extrication specialist, Jack arranged for the three days of training last week for South Lake Tahoe, Lake Valley, U.S. Forest Service and CalFire crews.

The 25 vehicles provide by individuals, Emerald Bay Towing and Welcome's Auto Body looked drivable at the beginning of the day. By the end of the exercise they were reduced to a mass of metal.

Realistic scenarios rescue personnel could encounter in the Lake Tahoe Basin were staged – including creating a rock cropping as though a vehicle had gone over Echo Summit or Emerald Bay.

An old BlueGo bus was tilted on its side for firefighters to practice rescuing large numbers of people at once.

Everyone being trained sat through a three-hour PowerPoint to learn about new vehicles and the various safety restraint systems. With airbags being in different locations, this is something rescue personnel need to understand before they are at the accident scene.

The group earned two certificates – continuing education units and a state fire marshal one that can be put toward firefighter 1 and firefighter 2 designations.

Jack is working on creating a larger training exercise next year for departments throughout California and Nevada that could involve cutting up 90 vehicles.

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El Dorado County bbq competition a bucket list item for chef

By Kristi Buffo

When 37-year-old Dwayne Joyner was diagnosed with kidney cancer, his wife asked him what his biggest regret would be should he not survive, besides—of course, missing her and his two young children.

“He said he had always wanted to enter a barbecue competition and, ultimately, open a catering business… and that’s how we came to create the Bucket of Nuts barbecue team,” says John Cain, Joyner’s brother-in-law. During the first weekend of October, Bucket of Nuts will join several dozen teams slated to compete in the Smokin’ for Gold KCBS sanctioned BBQ Cook-off at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds.



Dwayne Joyner

The competition on Oct. 2 is a part of the three-day Gateway to the Sierra Sportsmen’s & Outdoor Expo.

Cain admits that at first the competitions had a bitter-sweet undertone for the team, but recently Joyner had an MRI showing that he's cancer free.

"The first time we presented our chicken the skin slid right off and slapped the judge right in the nose. Of course that was the end of that competition," Cain said. One of the key judging points for barbecued chicken is to present "bite through skin." Cain thinks he and Joyner have finally figured out what that means and how to do it – but it's a secret.

In addition to chicken, teams will compete for prize money in a variety of categories, and one team will receive the grand trophy.

Think you might have what it takes to compete? Visit the Fair's website for details about the Smokin for the Gold competition or the Fun BBQ cook-off (amateurs invited), which will be Oct. 3. Tastings will be available following both competitions, $10 for five tastes.

Thinning project irks North Shore residents

By Will Frampton, News 10

Hundreds of trees have been removed near Tahoe City this summer for fire prevention.

The 150-acre area that has been cleared, known as the Ward Creek Park project, is the largest of its kind in the area in recent years, according to area fire protection officials.

A spokeswoman for California State Parks said the trees have

been cleared because they've grown too thick, due to fire suppression efforts of the last 100-plus years.

"We have gotten these really dense forests that are unhealthy," said Tamara Sasaki of California State Parks.

Some nearby residents are dismayed at how it looks now after a full summer of tree clearing.

Read the whole story

Kirkwood opening treetop zipline routes

Kirkwood Mountain Resort this week is opening Northern California's first complete treetop zipline tour.

Kirkwood Canopy Tours will feature nine ziplines and three suspension bridges, with views of the Kirkwood Valley.



Height and weight restrictions apply.

Learn more about Kirkwood's zip tour experience here.

Fight over snowmobiles on public lands

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Insisting peaceful winter sports are increasingly being disrupted by noisy snowmobiles, critics are asking the government to alter the way the machines are managed on national forest land.



Snowmobile groups say the petition filed by a coalition of 90 conservation and recreation groups is an attempt to unfairly restrict their sport with unnecessary regulations.

The dispute is the latest example of mounting conflicts between those favoring motorized play on public land and others who insist the practice is bothersome and environmentally damaging.

“We acknowledge that snowmobiles are a popular winter use and that they have their place,” said Mark Menlove, executive director of Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Boise, Idaho-based group leading the effort.

Read the whole story