Bijou Bash looking for vendors

Space is still available to be vendors at the Bijou Bash on Sept. 11.

The event is from 1-4pm at Bijou Community Park off Al Tahoe Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe.

Admission is free.

There will be a kids fun zone, stage performances, farmers market, arts and crafts, local businesses, bike valet and more.

Interested vendors should call (530) 542.6056 for information and a vending application form.

Babe Ruth and Julia Child share a stage

Lake Tahoe Chautauqua continues its quest to blend the insights of historical research with the fun of theatrical entertainment as it presents “Hot Dogs to Haute Cuisine” at Sand Harbor State Park on Aug. 19 beginning at 6pm.

For those unfamiliar with this entertaining and educational presentation, Chautauqua format is simple: for this summer’s show, a performer, in the guise Babe Ruth will share “firsthand stories about important episodes in the character’s life”, said Ginny Liebner Yates of the Chautauqua festival.

Following this appearance, “a tall, gangly woman with a preposterous voice and joy of life who revolutionized the art of cooking will tell her tale as Julia Child.” After the monologue, the audience and performers engage in a lively give-and-take.

Finally, the scholar emerges from character to respond to questions that could not be answered in character.

Babe Ruth is perhaps the greatest sports hero in American history. But, the “Sultan of Swat” or “The Bambino,” as he came to be known, was more than a ballplayer, he was a public figure whose popularity transcended that of any game.

Julie Child will take the stage to depict a picture of what her life entailed back in the 1960s. The audience will learn about how Child brought her love of French cooking to the American public.

Prices are: $25 upper gallery, $35 for lower gallery and reserved are $50 and $55. Tickets are available by calling call 800.747.4697 or by visiting www. LakeTahoeShakespeare.com.

Brewer brings original jazz to Truckee

Award-winning jazz guitarist Terrence Brewer will bring his creative improvisation to the Moody’s Bistro & Lounge in Truckee on Aug. 20 and 21 at 8:30pm.

Brewer, a jazz guitarist, composer, arranger, and musical director, will infuse a taste of San Francisco jazz into the

Truckee nightlife scene. His show will incorporate his passion for creation and innovation through improvisation, ensuring no two shows are exactly alike.



Terrence Brewer

One of the Bay Area’s most in demand musicians, Brewer has led his own instrumental and vocal groups in more than 1,400 shows throughout California in the last six years, many to sold-out audiences.

Brewer also possesses the rich experience of performing with legendary artists such as Pete Escovedo, Michael McDonald, Herb Gibson, Mary Wilson of The Supremes, Kim Nalley, Duwaan Muhammad, Calvin Keyes, Bruce Forman, Scott Amendola, Khalil Shaheed, Ed Kelly, Michael Zilber, Tuck and Patti, Chuck Bennet, and many others. In addition to performing with legendary jazz artists, Brewer’s fate led him to study with musical greats such as Charlie Hunter, Duck Baker, and Mark Levine.

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2 Santa Cruz residents

reportedly died in Sierra Nevada plane crash

By Alia Wilson, Santa Cruz Sentinel

EMIGRANT GAP – Two people, both believed to be from Santa Cruz County, died in a plane crash in the Sierra Nevada Friday afternoon, authorities reported.

Don French, manager of the Watsonville Municipal Airport, confirmed that the plane left from Watsonville on Friday morning. The single-engine Piper Cherokee Arrow was a rental from Monterey Bay Aviation Inc.'s United Flight Services, one of the oldest and busiest flight training and plane rental companies at the Watsonville Municipal Airport, French said.

According to French, who spoke to United Flight owner Bob Ross, Ross was shocked to hear the news because the pilot was "a well-trained and very competent individual; a guy with experience." Ross could not be reached to comment Friday.

A hiker found the wreckage about 1:45 p.m. near the Sierra Nevada community of Emigrant Gap. There were two bodies inside, according to Dena Erwin, public information officer with the Placer County Sheriff's Department. Erwin said the two people killed were the only ones on board the plane.

Read the whole story

Kaleb Curtzwiler 1982-2010

Kaleb James Martin Curtzwiler died Aug. 9, 2010. He was 28.

Mr. Curtzwiler was born Jan. 27, 1982, at Barton Memorial Hospital in South Lake Tahoe.

The 2000 South Tahoe High School graduate was an avid soccer player. Although he did not ski competitively, it was a sport he participated in with his family and one that he excelled at.



Kaleb Curtzwiler

The day after he graduated from high school he joined the Navy. His father, Kenny Curtzwiler, who was an officer, swore him in. Mr. Curtzwiler served for five years, rising to the rank of E5.

After the military he spent the first couple years on the East Coast working for Micron Technology, before returning to his roots of Lake Tahoe.

Mr. Curtzwiler had recently signed up to enlist in the Nevada National Guard.

Mr. Curtzwiler was using the GI bill to attend Lake Tahoe Community College. He was a straight A student with a goal of becoming an environmental engineer.

While on summer break he was working for the janitorial firm that cleans the offices for the city of South Lake Tahoe.

Kaleb Curtzwiler represents the second K in K&K Services, the company his father founded. He worked for the company at various times.

A memorial will be at the family home on Aug. 17 from 2-7pm at 2189 Blitzen Road in Christmas Valley. The Nevada State Honor Guard will honor Mr. Curtzwiler with a ceremony, including bagpipes, at 4pm.

Mr. Curtzwiler is survived by his parents Pam and Kenny Curtzwiler of Meyers; sister Hannah Curtzwiler of Meyers; brother Marshall Curtzwiler of Meyers; grandmother Irene Curtzwiler of Fremont; aunts Susan Curtzwiler and Lisa Curtzwiler of Fremont; uncle Bill Curtzwiler of Fremont; cousins Eric and Greg Curtzwiler; best friend Josh Newton; girlfriend Michelle Clarke of South Lake Tahoe; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks everyone to hug a child.

K's Kitchen: Yacht Club's molasses cookies

By Kathryn Reed

Molasses cookie recipes have not changed much in the last 55 years. And that's a tasty thing.



The latest batch I whipped up came out of the "Our Favorite Recipes!" cookbook put out by the South Lake Tahoe Yacht Club. The 161-page book was published earlier this year as a way to collate the members' favorite recipes as well as raise money for the local Boys & Girls Club, CASA and South Lake Tahoe Women's Center.

Unlike most cookbooks, this one has a celebrity chef entry. This alone is reason to purchase the book. Where else can you find recipes from well-known South Lake Tahoe eateries like Evan's, Nepheles, Tep's Villa Roma, and The Cantina?

Photographs representative of yachting on Lake Tahoe are sprinkled throughout the cookbook.

The table of contents proves several full meals can be made with the cookbook. Appetizers, salads-sauces-soups, entrees-casseroles, vegetables, fish-seafood, beverages, desserts-baked goodies, and holiday favorites are the categories.

What was different about the cookie recipe from the Yacht Club is that it says to top them with butter cream frosting. While I'm a huge fan of frosting, I found this combo made the cookies too sweet. Sue, with the sweet tooth, said they were perfect with the frosting. Oliver would skip the frosting too, though, he had no problem licking the beater.

Veronica, my niece and Oliver's sister sent an email from China Aug. 13 saying, "The frosting held up and they taste delicious! My co-workers and roommates love them as well!" She got a boxful for her birthday.

I compared the Yacht Club recipe to the one Mom gave me years ago as well as to the Better Homes and Gardens New Cookbook. The latter was a wedding gift to my parents – 55 years ago today.

Some of the differences are Mom's recipe calls for brown sugar; the old cookbook has coffee, twice as much flour and two eggs. With Mom's recipe, after the cookies are dipped in the sugar they are topped with a drop or two of water to make them Molasses Crinkles. No need to do that if you are using frosting.

Below is the Yacht Club recipe that was submitted by Wendy Oleson. It says, "This recipe won first place at the Santa

Clara County Fair and was handed down through our family from Chuck’s grandma.”

Another thing Mom taught me is if there is leftover frosting, put it between graham crackers, freeze and pull out as a treat when you need something sweet. It made for great snacks in my school lunches.

The recipe has high altitude instructions. I didn’t use them. I have never changed my cookie recipes from sea level to the Sierra.

Click here for more info on the Yacht Club cookbook.

Ma’s Molasses Cookies – by Wendy Oleson

1 C sugar

¾ C shortening

¼ C molasses

1 egg

2 C flour

2 tsp soda

1 tsp each ginger and cinnamon

½ tsp cloves

1 T water

Combine sugar and shortening until smooth. Add molasses and beat in egg. In separate bowl combine dry ingredients. Add to sugar mixture. Add water. Mix together and chill two hours. Roll into small balls about 1 inch and roll in sugar. On greased cookie sheet, bake at 350 degrees for 8-10 minutes. When cookies are cool, frost with butter cream frosting. Store in covered container. Makes 4 dozen.

Butter Cream Frosting

1 lb. box powdered sugar

¼ tsp salt

¼ C milk

1 tsp vanilla

1/3 C (2/3 stick) softened butter

Beat all ingredients listed above with electric mixer until smooth and creamy. If too stiff to spread easily, beat in a few drops of milk.

High altitude adjustment (above, 4,500 feet):

Increase flour by 2T, decrease sugar to just less than 1 cup. Increase oven temp to 375 degrees and decrease cooking time to 8 minutes.

California, Nevada among top 10 states for attracting tourists

By Claire Bradley, Investopedia.com

At a time of economic doom and gloom, it’s easy to forget that tourism still keeps many states afloat – to the tune of billions of dollars. As of 2009, tourism brought $704 billion to the United States, employing an estimated 17.4 million people. So which states rake in the biggest bucks from its visitors? Here’s the top 10.

1. California



Hiking to the top of Mount Tallac is a draw for many visitors to Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The Golden State is the tourism powerhouse of America, generating $87.7 billion annually in 2009, and accounting for 851,000 jobs. With its national parks, tourist attractions like the Golden Gate Bridge and various theme parks, plus expansive beaches and wine country, California has a variety of tourist hotspots throughout the state. What's interesting to note is that Californians are their own largest pool of tourists – roughly 80% of visits are made by Californians themselves.

Read the whole story

Huffington paves the way for

Internet news sites

By Daniel Lyons, Newsweek

If you had to declare a winner among Internet media companies today, the victor easily would be Arianna Huffington. Her site, The Huffington Post, attracted 24.3 million unique visitors last month, five times as much traffic as many new-media rivals, more than The Washington Post and USA Today, and nearly as many as The New York Times. HuffPo's revenue this year will be about $30 -million—peanuts compared with the old-media dinosaurs, but way better than most digital competitors. And HuffPo has finally started to eke out a profit.

Those numbers, however, don't fully convey the site's place in this new-media world. What began five years ago as a spot for Huffington and her lefty celebrity friends to vent about the Bush administration has become one of the most important news sites on the Web, covering politics, sports, entertainment, business—along with plenty of tabloidy stuff to drive clicks, like photos of "Jennifer Aniston's topless perfume ad." HuffPo's mission, Huffington says, is "to provide a platform for a really important national conversation."



Arianna Huffington

It's a humid July afternoon in New York—Huffington's 60th birthday—and she's sipping San Pellegrino water and nibbling on apple slices in her tiny office on the third floor of a building in New York's SoHo. Minions rush in and out, bringing

chocolates, messages, and a BlackBerry, with her ex-husband, former Republican congressman Michael Huffington, on the line. Arianna has just come from speaking at an advertising conference—she gives more than 100 speeches a year, addressing techies and publishing types, who view her as the patron saint of new media, the queen of bloggers, the one person who's figured out the future of journalism.

Read the whole story

South Shore bus agency maps route to bankruptcy court

By Kathryn Reed

Another major entity on the South Shore is headed for bankruptcy. Joining the failed convention center in debtors' court is South Tahoe Area Transit Authority.

The board, at least those members who showed up for the Aug. 13 meeting, unanimously agreed to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in Nevada.

With bills topping seven figures that can't be paid, the agency that runs BlueGo buses on the South Shore and in the Carson Valley is ready to reorganize. Like all Chapter 11 filings, the creditors will have a say in the outcome.



Bankruptcy is not supposed to affect BlueGo bus service. Photo/Kathryn Reed

MV Transportation out of Fairfield is owed the largest sum. However, that dollar figure is in dispute. MV says the total is close to $3 million, while STATA says it's closer to $2 million. Either way, STATA doesn't have the money to make good on that debt.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is owed at least $50,000, though an exact figure could not be secured. Legal fees are also mounting.

Things have only gotten worse since MV, the former bus operator, got a judge in Minden to freeze STATA's assets. Not having access to that pot of $677,000 is making it difficult to run the day-to-day operation.

Still, even with the official bankruptcy filing that will occur in the next month, the buses will roll, according to STATA officials. Riders should see no change in service for the time being.

A group of students and parents representing Grace Christian Academy in Minden helped fill the room Friday, worried their route will be cut as the agency keeps tweaking the schedule.

The board voted to keep it going because about a dozen

families at the lake use the bus that goes over Kingsbury Grade. It serves the greater public, not just these students. Plus, one reason Big George Ventures wrote a hefty check for what had been called the Kingsbury Express was so fewer passenger vehicles would go by the owner's neighborhood.

It's still not known what El Dorado County is going to do with their residents in the basin who want/need public transit. The county pulled out of the public-private transit agency last month.

Derek Kirkland, transportation planner with Nevada Department of Transportation, spoke about route changes before the bankruptcy issue was voted on.

NDOT in a letter dated July 12 had threatened to pull its funding because of its lack of confidence in STATA.

STATA, at NDOT's urging, then contracted with Tahoe Transportation District to handle the bulk of the operation, except for the actual buses. That will continue to be the agreement as STATA enters bankruptcy.

Mike McLaughlin is STATA's attorney, but the board will hire a specialist to handle this situation.

Even though it is creditors who have a large say in what STATA's reorganization looks like, it is not likely the players will want to lose control and still contribute financially.

South Lake Tahoe, Douglas County, Harveys, Harrah's, MontBleu, Horizon, Lakeside, Heavenly, Ridge Tahoe and Tahoe Transportation District are voting board members. TRPA is a non-voting member.

Besides bankruptcy court, STATA is dealing with three lawsuits from MV. One was misfiled in El Dorado County, that's why it's down to three.

The audit for fiscal year 2008-09, which is well overdue, was on the agenda. The board tabled it because TRPA has concerns about some of the wording in the document.

El Dorado County bomb threat suspect in custody

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

A man from the Madera County community of Bass Lake has been arrested on suspicion of a making a bomb threat at a Walmart store in El Dorado County.

Nicholas Gregorio, 18, was taken into custody Thursday at a residence on Forni Road in Placerville.

The El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department was called to the Walmart store in Diamond Springs about 11am Tuesday. The bomb threat was written in ink on a surface in the men’s restroom, and store managers were evacuating the store when deputies arrived, according to a Sheriff’s Department news release.

Read the whole story