Tahoe Shakespeare Fest puts on abridged version

By Forrest Hartman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival begins a six-week run today and, for the first time in the organization's history, it's doing so without a William Shakespeare-penned production on the schedule.

There's no "Hamlet," no "Romeo and Juliet" and no "Taming of the Shrew." Rather, the company has opted for a three-person homage to the Bard, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)," and a lengthy concert series featuring everything from classical music to rock and blues.

Organizers admit the situation isn't ideal, but they promise the quality of the entertainment will be solid and that they're working to bring full-scale Shakespeare back to Sand Harbor as soon as possible.

Read the whole story

DCSD ready to hire Whittell principal

By Kathryn Reed

Douglas County School District trustees at their Tuesday meeting are expected to hire a principal for Whittell High School.

Crespin Esquivel, an assistant principal at Hug High in Reno, has been chosen for the job. He has had that position since 2005.

All of Esquivel's experience is in Washoe County, either as a teacher, dean or Hispanic liaison specialist.

He earned his bachelor's from UNR and master's from University of Phoenix.

Esquivel replaces Sue Shannon who retired at end of the school year.

The school board meeting is at Douglas High School in Minden on July 13 at 3:30pm.

Rice's soft hands make him a threat on links

By Chris Murray, Reno Gazette-Journal

Jerry Rice readily will admit that when he played football he was addicted to the game.

He'd do whatever it took to get better. And by the time he retired in 2004, with three Super Bowl rings in hand, there was little doubt he was the greatest wide receiver in NFL history.



Jerry Rice

But once his Hall of Fame career ended, he was left with a void. The all-consuming passion that was football was gone.

“I was like, ‘OK, what am I going to do now?'” Rice said Wednesday during a teleconference to promote next week’s American Century Championship golf tournament.

Well, he’s found plenty of things to fill the void.

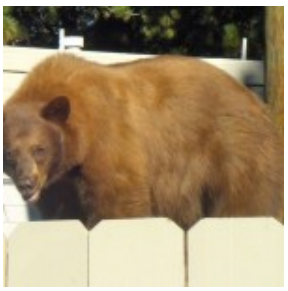
Read the whole story

Tahoe bear-human encounters on the rise

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

People and bears have grown a little too close for comfort in the Reno-Tahoe area, a situation increasingly dangerous for both.

Behavior and physical characteristics of bears living near urban areas are altered.



A bear in a South Shore neighborhood in fall 2009. Photo/Janice Eastburn

They’re bigger – sometimes much bigger. Many skip winter naps.

They reproduce early and often. They die young. And every year, aggressive black bears smash their way into homes and cars in food-hunting burglaries that can put them in dangerous proximity to people.

Some experts question if these are still truly bears.

Read the whole story

Area photographers’ work on display in Minden

Nine photographers share their images for the month of July at the Holiday Inn Express in Minden. This “mini-gallery” is being coordinated through the Minden Holiday Inn Express by the Carson Valley Arts Council and Copeland Cultural Arts Center.



July focuses on local photography. August will showcase members of the Carson Valley Artist Association, and September will bring nine different photographers, most of whom are members of the Carson Valley Photo Club.

Photographers participating in the July exhibit include Eddie Ford, Tim Ford, NJ Thompson, Bonnie Mahl, Nancy Hulsey, Kathy Port, Manny Diaz, Dean Ward, and Tamyra Crossley.

Nevada needs to focus on economic diversity

Publisher's note: ***This is an editorial from the July 2, 2010, Las Vegas Sun.***

Economic development and diversification in Nevada have for decades been largely ineffective.

The problem over the past decade is that for every nongaming job created by economic development initiatives, dozens more jobs in the gaming industry were created with the opening of megaresorts such as Wynn Las Vegas, Encore, Palazzo and CityCenter.

State statistics show that despite all the talk and money spent on economic diversification in Nevada, the economy is less diversified as gaming's domination has actually grown.

About 305,000 Nevadans were employed in the leisure and hospitality sector through May — equaling 27.2 percent of the state's 1.123 million jobs.

With the near-decimation of the construction and real estate development industries, that percentage is up from 26.4 percent of the state's workers employed in leisure and hospitality in May 2006.

Read the whole story

Business seminar in Incline Village

As part of it ChamberEDucation workshop series, the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce, along with the Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation, is hosting an "Establishing Your Business' Value" seminar July 14 from 4-5pm at the Donald W. Reynolds Community Non-Profit Center, Meiling Room, 948 Incline Way in Incline Village.

The seminar will focus on an overview of the key principals associated with determining a business' value. It will identify what buyers are looking for as well as an explanation of the mysterious term known as a "Business Multiple." The presentation will be based on anecdotal experiences, empirical data and real life examples.

Broker and owner Brad Bottoset of the Liberty Group of Nevada LLC will be speaking.

This seminar is open to the public at no cost. To reserve your space and for more information, call (775) 298.0184 or email leannek@parasol.org.

Talk of redevelopment suit percolates at STPUD, county

By Kathryn Reed

"We have filed a letter that reserves the right to file suit."

That is Dennis Cocking, spokesman for South Tahoe Public Utility District, talking about his agency's actions regarding South Lake Tahoe's latest redevelopment area.

Neither the utility district nor El Dorado County is happy with the city's decision to create a redevelopment area that encompasses most of the town – going from the airport, to the Y, to Herbert Street. It's 3,100 acres.

For the state to recognize a redevelopment area the parcels must be deemed blighted. The county has taken issue with the massive swath of land the city says falls into blight.

A recent appellate court decision ruled in favor of Los Angeles County in its quest to stop a redevelopment project in Glendora. This county said sufficient physical blight did not exist. The court agreed.

El Dorado County referenced that case in a letter the Board of Supervisors sent Mayor Kathay Lovell and the rest of the council on July 8. The letter reiterates the concerns the county has regarding blight and that the city may leave the

county no choice but to litigate.

It is not known when the county or district will decide how it plans to proceed.

STPUD and city staffs have been discussing concerns since the City Council approved the area in May. The city and county are not talking. If a lawsuit is to be filed by either disgruntled entity, it must be done by mid-August.

“It’s not like you can stop redevelopment forever. You invalidate the current redevelopment area,” Cocking said of what a lawsuit could achieve. “It would force the city to go back and either come up with a smaller area or put a cap on it.

“We would have liked to have been involved sooner, but that ship has sailed.”

City-STPUD work on other issues

Since the city and South Tahoe PUD have been talking, several issues have been resolved in the last six weeks; with some being offshoots of the larger redevelopment squabble.

City Manager Dave Jinkens in a June email to STPUD General Manager Richard Solbrig said in theory he agrees, “… the RDA [Redevelopment Agency] would be responsible for the cost of paving the street should the district decide to upgrade sewer and/or water mains in the street at the same time city RDA work is under way.”

Another key issue being discussed is Lukins Brothers Water District on the west side of town. The small water company that goes from the Y down Emerald Bay Road does not have water lines sufficient to satisfy fire suppression needs. It is a private entity governed by the California Public Utilities Commission, with a franchise agreement with South Lake Tahoe for its nearly 1,000 customers.

At issue is who would own the improvements made to the inferior water district that would be paid for with redevelopment dollars and what happens if STPUD one day buys Lukins.

South Tahoe PUD wrote to the city proposing, “For ownership of improvements made to the Lukins system with public funds, the city would support modifying the CPUC agreement to have the improvements pass to the district for ownership. If the agreement could not be modified, the city would agree to sell any improvements paid by redevelopment funds to the district at a nominal cost in the event the district were to purchase the Lukins system in whole or part.”

The city’s response was, “This proposal needs to be examined and explored further.”

The district would also like to enter into a dual service agreement with Lukins, using the city as the conduit to make it happen. The idea is Lukins could provide domestic water and STPUD could provide fire flow.

Sources told *Lake Tahoe News* one reason nothing is happening with the dilapidated buildings at the Y where Mikasa and Miller’s Outpost used to be is because no commercial enterprise can get insurance because fire flows are not sufficient. Property owners cannot negotiate a deal directly with STPUD for it to supply the necessary water in case of a fire. But the city could broker a deal between Lukins and STPUD to provide dual service.

A similar agreement exists between STPUD and Lakeside Water District, where the larger company would provide fire flow to the would-be convention center.

Other issues the city and South Tahoe PUD are discussing are irrigation issues at Linear Park, water supply to city entities and the cost involved, and encroachment fees for district construction projects in the city right-of way.

Truckee Donner Land Trust dinner

Sugar Bowl Resort is hosting Saturday dinners this summer at its exclusive Lake Mary Cabin. On July 17 from 5:30-9pm, 5 percent of the gross earnings will go to the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

Enjoy French inspired California cuisine and spacious, patio-style dining with views of Lake Mary, the Palisades and Mt. Disney.

For reservations, call (530) 426.7002.

South Tahoe resident seriously injured in Sparks

By Reno Gazette-Journal

The 82-year-old South Lake Tahoe-area resident injured in a crash Wednesday in Sparks was identified (Thursday) as Odd Bakken by the Sparks Police Department.

Bakken is reported to be on a ventilator and may have broken a leg in the 5:17pm crash at Rock Boulevard and Hymer Avenue, police said.

Read the whole story