Firefighters to train for wildland fire

The South Lake Tahoe Fire Department will be hosting a series of multi-jurisdictional wildland fire drills on city owned land in Cold Creek Canyon off Pioneer Trail. These drills will consist of attacking a simulated wildland fire that is threatening structures. These drills will be utilized to hone the suppression skills of the area firefighters as well as the command and control functions used by the incident commanders. The theme is cooperation, competency and standardization allowing the various jurisdictions to operate as a unified body.

The drills will be held as follows:

June 29 10am-3pm

July 2 10am-3pm

July 10 9am-4pm

Ohio native wins Lake Tahoe Concours d'Elegance

By Geralda Miller, Reno Gazette-Jounral

As a child, growing up in Toledo, Ohio, Jun Morris would peek at the beautiful boats over the fence and dream of one day owning one.

His 1930, 22½-foot runabout, named Miss Lucy, won best of show

Sunday at the three-day 38th annual Lake Tahoe Concours d'Elegance classic boat show at Lake Tahoe's Carnelian Bay staged by the Tahoe Yacht Club Foundation.

"I didn't expect that," said Morris, who now lives in Bellevue, Wash. "I'm floored."

Although Morris was surprised, his three-cockpit boat, made of oak and Philippines mahogany, keeps winning awards. In 2008, he said it was named the international boat of the year by the Antique and Classic Boat Society.

Read the whole story

Chinese gang preying on Indian casino gamblers

By Sam Stanton and Chelsea Phua, Sacramento Bee

On a bright, sunny afternoon last week, about 60 people gathered inside Thunder Valley Casino, pressed together five deep at the midi baccarat tables, where the stakes go up to $2,000 a hand.

Others sat intently at the pai gow poker tables nearby.

Almost all were of Asian descent. Most were women.

And each was potential prey in what state and casino officials allege was an unusual and audacious attempt by a Chinese gang to target gamblers at Sacramento-area tribal casinos for extortion and loan sharking.

After a seven-month probe, state Department of Justice

officials announced this month they had broken up a scheme that targeted gamblers of Asian descent who frequent Red Hawk, Thunder Valley and at least one other area casino.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• The presentation and summaries from the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan Revision Public Meetings are available here.

• After a summer spent exploring wine and food traditions in Europe, Rose Levinson and Chris Cooke are opening Avec Wine + Food in Truckee. For more information, call (530) 582.1903 or visit www.avecwineandfood.com.

• There is a blood drive on June 26 from 7:30am-1:30pm at Tahoe Douglas Fire Department, Round Hill Station No. 3.

• Tahoe Tot Spot is moving into the old AAA office at Al Tahoe Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe. This will leave a vacancy on Emerald Bay Road near 7-Eleven.

• Road Rash Café, a motorcycle store selling parts, accessories and renting bikes is open near Frank’s TV in South Tahoe.

Business owner won’t tolerate extortion attempts

To the community,

• Extortion, outwresting, and/or exaction is a criminal offense which occurs when a person unlawfully obtains either money, property or services from a person(s), entity, or institution, through coercion.

• Coercion: is the practice of compelling a person or manipulating them to behave in an involuntary way (whether through action or inaction) by use of threats, intimidation, trickery, or some other form of pressure or force. These are used as leverage, to force the victim to act in the desired way.

On 06/19/2010 at 12:42pm a man about 23 years old, with dark hair, wearing a cap, mirrored sunglasses, with tattoos on his right arm came in to my business which has yet to officially open, and demanded my address. I asked how I could help him and he asked again for the address. I responded again, what for, and he said a friend visiting him at this location needed the address, and walked out.

My neighbor has this man on video coming in to the parking lot. Not exiting his vehicle but sitting in his vehicle taking notes. As he made a U-turn in the lot, he stopped, got out of his off white Nissan/Toyota type 4-wheel drive vehicle, looked around the front of the building and then entered to ask for my address. He asked nothing about the business. His only question was about the address missing on the building.

If by chance this has anything to do with the ADA man and his associates going around town extorting money from local business I will pursue you and your employees. I suggest other business owners review their videotapes to see if this same

fellow has entered their business to extract information for extortion purposes. Regardless of any ADA issues, extortion is a crime and I will pursue you. I suggest other business owners do so as well to get these individuals off our streets.

Robert Stiles, Tahoe Real Estate Services

Douglas deputies embrace ID system to find missing kids

Douglas County Sheriff's Office is partnering with AlertID to protect missing and injured children. In an emergency, AlertID will enable the sheriff's office or other emergency personnel to instantly access vital information to help identify and protect children.

This system is the first of its kind and goes far beyond identifying a child after there is a problem. It enables parents to store on a secure web portal information that would be needed should a child become missing, lost or injured. Parents enter their child's photo, profile and basic health information onto the secure portal, and this information is then instantly available to emergency services if ever needed.

AlertID is the first system to provide parents with protection and assistance in case their children are ever lost or injured. It is a totally private and secure system that instantly gives police, paramedics and hospital staff the vital information they need. It also immediately informs parents and their most trusted friends through text, email and phone if there is ever a problem.

AlertID is launching nationally this summer through the global

efforts of companies like AT&T and Overstock.com. AlertID's goal is to protect 1 million families this year.

"Growing up in Gardnerville helped me appreciate family and the need to protect our children. Although AlertID is supported and distributed on a national basis, we are especially pleased to protect children right where I grew up," AlertID co-founder Keli Wilson said in a press release.

The service is completely free. Interested parents can gain more information by visiting www.AlertID.com or by contacting co-founder Keli Wilson at Kwilson@alertid.me.

Edgewood hands out $2,500 to 4 graduating seniors

Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course & Restaurant has chosen four local high school seniors to receive $2,500 scholarships in support of their college educations. Each has demonstrated exceptional academic and athletic abilities, maintaining their honor roll statuses while participating in educational, sports and community-oriented activities.

Edgewood Tahoe partnered with Whittell and Douglas high schools in Douglas County to select the students from among 50 applicants. The scholarship recipients are:

Anthony "Dino" Elias, Whittell High School: Elias plans to attend Oklahoma University in the fall, majoring in performing arts and business. He has competed in national and international dance competitions, currently holding the title of Mr. Spotlight Dance Nationals 2009, and teaches classes at All About Dance and Forever Dance. Even with his demanding

dance schedule, Elias has completed several Advanced Placement courses and is a National Honor Society inductee.

Michael Koskin, Whittell High School: Koskin plans to attend Arizona State University in this fall to study economics. e has participated in the school's academic team, science bowl team and student council, as well as playing in three sports seasons each year. Koskin is passionate about playing golf. He led Whittell's team to the league and state championship last year and has worked as a caddy at the American Century Celebrity Golf Championship.

Rachel Davis, Douglas High School: Davis has been accepted to Southern Oregon University for fall 2010, with plans to study biology and forensic science. A lifelong dancer, she has been a member of the school's Dance Line for three years, as well as a Girl Scout and Big Sister in the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. Davis is on the honor roll and received three Principal's Awards for Academic Excellence.

David Present, Douglas High School: Present will be attending UC Santa Barbara in fall 2010. He has balanced academics with football and swim team throughout his high school career, receiving a National Honors Society Certification Award and an Outstanding Student-Athlete Award, as well as being recognized on the honor roll each year. Present also volunteers weekly on campus and at Temple Bat Yam.

Property owner getting grief for cutting access to bike

path

By Kathryn Reed

A private property sign where one has not existed for at least a decade is causing some unrest on West Way in South Lake Tahoe.

In October, when Paul Lara bought the house that backs to the Pope Meadow he knew a trail skirted the far edge of his property. What he didn't know is how well used it is. With biking season having arrived, he has found out the hard way.

"When I bought the property I could see there was a spot where people could come through. My intention was never to keep it open. My intention was to close it off," Lara said.



The Laras' house is on the far side of the trail they blocked off. Photo/Kathryn Reed

But he doesn't want to build a fence. One of the appealing things about the parcel is the openness of it.

To stop people from riding on his land Lara has erected a barrier with wood and posted a "Private Property, No

Trespassing” sign. But not everyone is thrilled with not being allowed to pedal or walk through the meadow that leads to Pope Beach and onto Camp Richardson. Nor has it stopped everyone.

Lara called South Lake Tahoe police officers to his residence three times last week because of threats from disgruntled trail users.

“It’s amazing the anger coming out of a lot of people. I haven’t accosted anyone. I have been calm. I’m trying to be understanding,” Lara said.

Lara said one irate user threateningly drove a vehicle toward him.

“Technically if people are on his property (even if it’s unfenced), it could be considered trespassing. The fact that it is a well used trail is another issue,” police Lt. David Stevenson said. “If he leaves town and there is no fence, I would think people would use the trail again.”

Lara and his wife are part-time residents. Their jobs as a firefighter and nurse are in the Central Valley. The 51-year-old has been coming here since he was a kid and intends to live in South Lake full time one day.

“I’m up here a lot. I would like to have some privacy,” Lara said. “My main windows point that way.”

A significant number of trail users, including this reporter, come from the Tahoe Keys and Tahoe Island area. It provides a scenic, less crowded route to places off Emerald Bay Road. It also means not dealing with the hordes of people on the paved Pope-Baldwin trail.

Lara said farther up West Way, closer to Highway 89, is a California Tahoe Conservancy lot people have begun to use to reach the meadow.

The distinct trail on his property is closer to his neighbor’s

house than his, but his neighbor has a fence. The Laras own a double lot, with the bike path on the far side of the undeveloped lot. They have chairs sitting in the lush grass. They would rather be watching the aspens quake than cyclists fly by.

He also worries about liability issues if someone were to injure themselves on his land. Plus, next to the dirt trail is a shallow gully that still has water in it.

Even if people get used to not using this trail starting from West Way, it doesn't mean they won't end up on it coming from the other direction. That's because the meadow and the property leading to it is U.S. Forest Service land.

Garrett Villanueva, assistant forest engineer, will be taking a look at the problem soon.

"We don't endorse any trail that goes across private property without the owner's permission," Villanueva said. "But we do sympathize with the users and landowner."

This particular trail through the meadow is unauthorized. Villanueva said closing it and restoring the area could compound the problem.

A potential concern for the Forest Service is if people are leaving the trails near Pope Beach, head across the meadow and then are stuck if Lara and others create a dead-end by preventing people from accessing West Way to get to their final destination.

"As the situation evolves, we will look at the actions we need to take," Villanueva said.

He is extremely familiar with land use issues like this. Villanueva dealt with the Dundee Circle issue from a few years ago when a new homeowner cut off access to a highly popular mountain bike trail in the Tahoe Mountain area. A Forest

Service gate went up, but the owner also eventually sold her place.

Neighbors at the time brought up the issue of prescriptive easements. These easements on private property are acquired by continued use without permission of the owner. Each state has different rules for how these easements are handled.

Whether that issue would gain traction on West Way remains to be seen.

One thing Villanueva said is with his agency looking at all the bike trails in that area, many changes are likely to be forth coming in the near future for cyclists and pedestrians.

Incline firms partners with Sylvania in audio-light venture

By John Seelmeyer, Northern Nevada Business Weekly

The top executive of a small developer of audio systems headquartered at Incline Village thinks his company will gain a big voice though an alliance with a global manufacturer of lighting systems.

Artison LLC partnered with OSRAM Sylvania to market a product developed by Artison that allows consumers to install wireless remote audio speakers into recessed light fixtures.

The product known as “MusicLites” also includes a 10-watt LED light that produces the equivalent of a 65-watt bulb.

Read the whole story

Rare opportunity to view Donner Party artifacts

By Dixie Reid, Sacramento Bee

Charles E. Davis was a one-time sea captain who, in the early 1900s, ran a dance hall and boat landing on the Salton Sea.

He was obsessed with the Donner Party, the California-bound pioneers trapped in the Sierra during the brutal winter of 1846-47. Davis believed there was more to their story than horrifying tales of survival by cannibalism.

“He thought they were mis-understood,” said Nancy Jenner, curator at Sutter’s Fort State Historic Park in Sacramento. “He felt strongly that the Donner Party symbolized the heroism of the early pioneers.”

In 1927, Davis contacted the fort’s then-curator, Harry C. Peterson, and asked for support in retracing the Donner Party route. Davis hoped to find things abandoned 80 years earlier by the Donners, Reeds, Breens and other families.

Read the whole story