Stevie Nicks at Harveys in Stateline

Stevie Nicks, the legendary American singer-songwriter, best known for her work with Fleetwood Mac and an extensive solo career, which collectively have produced more than 40 Top 50 hits and has sold nearly 120 million albums, is set to hit the stage for the first time at Harveys Outdoor Arena in Lake Tahoe on Aug. 6, beginning at 8pm.

Tickets are $49.50, $89.50, $159.50 plus applicable service charges.

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster locations and online at www.apeconcerts.com and www.ticketmaster.com.

Road construction in Nevada

Some people say winter and road work are the two seasons in the Lake Tahoe region. Both are going on this week.

The northbound lanes of Highway 395 north of Jacks Valley Road are being widened. Expect delays during the week through October.

The highway will be reduced to one lane at night through May 21.

Kingsbury Grade on the Tahoe side will also be down to one lane during the day. That will be for just this week.

Gaming results improve through most of Nevada

By Cy Ryan, Las Vegas Sun

CARSON CITY – Casinos along the Las Vegas Strip posted their fourth increased win in the past five months in March, buoyed by strong performances in Baccarat and sports betting with the college basketball tournament.

Casinos in downtown Las Vegas, however, registered their 22nd consecutive month of declining gaming win. But casinos in Laughlin ended 27 straight months of lowered win, recording a 2.4 percent increase in March.

The state Gaming Control Board reported today that casinos statewide won $912.1 million in March, computed before business expenses and taxes. That was a 0.66 percent decline from the same month of a year ago.

Read the whole story

Cycling event lets riders be creative with route, distance

The Alta Alpina Cycling Club is offering a new concept in cycling events: Build Your Own Challenge. The idea is simple. Riders can choose between one and six passes around the Markleeville area. Just like a menu at a restaurant, cyclists

can pick and choose whatever their particular appetite might be to challenge themselves. Distances for the June 12 rides range from 30-160 miles with 3,600-16,700 feet of climbing as part of the options.

Do one pass, do them all, or mix it up. The beauty of this new approach is you get to call the shots.

The Alta Alpina Challenge: Riding the Wild Sierra is a cycling event which offers four distinct registration options: The Kid Carson Challenge is a family ride aimed at local individuals and families along with the friends and family of cyclists participating in one of the other rides. The Wild Sierra Century offers three mountain passes with just more than 100 miles of climbing. The 8 Pass Challenge is one of 20 California Triple Crown events in which experienced endurance cyclists

ride approximately 200 miles in one day.

Finally, the Build Your Own Challenge represents a new

innovation in organized rides. Each participant sets a personal goal based on their individual skills

and ability to ride between one and six mountain passes.

The Alta Alpina Cycling Club is a nonprofit corporation promoting all forms of safe cycling in the Lake Tahoe, Carson Valley, Carson City, and Markleeville areas. The club has decades of experience producing comparable events and we are excited to be producing this event because it directly promotes cycling both within the community and by bringing cyclists to the region…

For more information, contact Pete Costa at (775)782.8493, or email Mel at president@altaalpina.org.

Wet weather snarls roads, wilts plants – isn’t unusual

By Susan Wood and Kathryn Reed

Twenty-four hours after the Earth experienced its warmest day on record, Mother Nature cooked up a winter storm for the Sierra Nevada that showed the extremes climatologists and even the “Farmers Almanac” predicted last fall.

“We could have a very cool May. And if it stays this way, it will be the first one since 1998,” Kelly Redmond, chief climatologist with the Western Regional Climate Center, said Monday.

Although Redmond studies El Nino weather patterns like the moderate one the Pacific Coast experienced this winter, he said he doesn’t think the symptoms of the tropical weather phenomenon are still lingering.



Visibility was nil Monday heading into Tahoe on Highway 50. Photos/Kathryn Reed

“Most of those end in March,” Redmond said.

The region is experiencing a series of fluctuations in temperature and storm cycles. Early May’s normal freezing elevation of 10,800 feet is 800 feet lower than what is usual for Lake Tahoe. As oscillations go, April’s freezing level for Lake Tahoe was 1,000 feet lower in elevation than the normal 8,700 feet. The freezing level is determined by where rain turns to snow.

This pattern made snow more plentiful for a wider region of the Sierra Nevada and its foothills, Redmond reported.

“This is unusual. No question about it. But spring’s back and forth from hot to cold is more noticeable when you’re hoping for the opposite,” he said, referring to the summerlike days that have sprinkled the calendar.

On Monday, Reno’s high temperature was 34 degrees; Donner Summit’s 23 degrees; and Incline Village came in at 26 degrees.

Horrible road conditions

The nasty weather had law enforcement and tow truck drivers scurrying to keep up with the calls. Nearly 20 motorcyclists thought it a good idea to head west over Echo Summit only to get stuck on Highway 50 at Twin Bridges.



A motorcyclist in the snow on Highway 50 on

May 10.

“It’s not too bright when you know what’s going on with the weather,” California Highway Patrol Officer Jeff Gartner said of the two-wheelers.

A pickup almost landed in the American River off of Highway 50. Another pickup farther east was pulling a sedan out of a snowbank on the north side of the two-lane road.

Highway patrol officials in California and Nevada said early Monday night no major accidents had occurred, just a lot of spinouts. They said people seem to have forgotten how to drive in the snow.

It was a whiteout on much of Highway 50 on Monday afternoon just outside of Placerville to Meyers.

South Lake Tahoe police officers were hopping as well with spinouts. A scare after school with three missing children ended happily when the Bijou Community School students were located after missing their bus.

Perennials will survive, annuals no

Even though storms like the one Monday that dumped about 4 inches of snow at lake level are not unusual, not all the plant life knows this. Daffodils and other bulbs are likely to spring back, though maybe not as straight as they were on Mother’s Day.

“Snow doesn’t hurt. It’s the cyclical temperatures (that are bad). The wind we had (Monday) morning, then the precipitation, that turns leaves black,” explained Ron Zehren of Zehren’s Landscape Nursery in South Lake Tahoe. “You can’t hurt a bulb. Perennials will take the cold.”

It’s annuals like marigolds, petunias and zinnias that shouldn’t be planted until after Memorial Day.

At Perennial Landscape & Nursery in Tahoe Vista they hold off on ordering the non-frost resistant plants because of storms like the one this week.

Rite-Aid had flowers for sale in its parking lot last week in South Tahoe. They probably didn't make it sitting on the asphalt or if people planted them.

"It's way too early for annuals. You can't fool Mother Nature," Zehren said.

Most nurseries in the basin tell customers not to plant until June – no matter if it seems like an early spring.

Zehren said the other thing people have to worry about is having plants acclimate to the area. They may be grown in the Central Valley, shipped to the Carson Valley and then put in the ground in Tahoe in a 24-hour period.

"The plant says 'get me out of here'," Zehren said of that scenario.

Climate change

Even though May snowstorms are not unusual in Tahoe, including last year, the Western United States has seen more cold spells in the last few years.

However, before labeling the planet's spring weather as a symptom of the Ice Age, look at other areas of the world to get a grip of climate change in the form of warming. There's a huge difference between global warming and localized weather.



A truck barely stops before hitting the American River.

“You can’t tell the climate by looking out the window. The whole planet doesn’t work altogether in one direction,” Redmond, the climatologist, said.

Redmond warned the planet is experiencing “more pluses than minuses” in terms of temperature.

“Although it’s been very cool in our neck of the woods, 2010 has turned out to be very warm in the first four months. This one has been the warmest in 30 years of our satellite records. It may turn out to be the warmest in the last 100 years,” he said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s average of its collective temperature readings from around the world on May 9 was 20 degrees below zero. This sounds cold, but it is a few degrees warmer than average.

Scientists have long predicted weather extremes may become more frequent with climate change.

Redmond has seen it all firsthand this year. He was attending a conference in Miami in January when the Southeast had a deep freeze – and no heaters. Last week he was visiting Boston when highs hit the mid-80s.

The word from him – prepare for anything. In Tahoe that means keeping the shovel and rake next to one another.

Plan for Sierra may create jobs, healthy forests



By Marc Benjamin, Fresno Bee

A state agency overseeing the 22-county Sierra region is preparing an ambitious plan to add jobs in mountain communities, keep forests healthy, protect water supplies and reduce fire danger.

And, to make sure the Sustainable Sierra Nevada Initiative has wide support, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is working with timber, environmental, biomass and government officials to develop it.

Most agree that forests need thinning to reduce the threat of catastrophic fire, and those forest operations could create new job opportunities.

But balancing forest management with environmental concerns has been a tricky proposition.

Read the whole story

Douglas County puts property information online



Douglas County has released the Internet Mapping Application (IMA) which provides free 24-hour access to an assortment of property data for Douglas County residents and businesses.

IMA is available online at www.douglascountynv.gov and clicking the Mapping Application link under online services on the left side of the page. The tool provides access to parcels, aerial photography, land use, zoning, flood plain, public lands, street centerlines, trails, contours, hydrology, county commission districts and voting precinct information.

Users will be able to perform property data searches based on street address, assessor parcel numbers, or the owner's name. Data and maps may then be exported as PDF files. The application is user-friendly, but training sessions will be made available for any Douglas County resident or business that needs extra assistance.

Douglas County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Division developed this application using open-source software, which greatly reduced the cost to the county when compared to developing a similar tool with proprietary internet mapping engines. This being the first step in a phased implementation, there are already plans for enhancements, including, but not limited to, expanded access to Assessor information and other public spatial information important to Douglas County residents.

For more information about the application, or available training sessions, visit www.douglascountynv.gov/sites/GIS/disclaimer.cfm or call (775) 782.9894.

Edgewood's sports bar kicks off Taste of Tahoe

As the Taste of Tahoe featured restaurant this week, Edgewood Brooks Bar and Deck in Stateline will donate 10 percent of sales through May 15 to South Lake Tahoe Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society.

Edgewood welcomes everyone to enjoy the new menu and fire pit. Join friends, family members, coworkers and neighbors for food and drinks and to support the fight against cancer.

Visit www.RelayForLifeTasteOfTahoe.com for more details, a schedule of events and a list of business, media and restaurant sponsors.

Lariat basket making class

Regional artist Jeff Myers will give a class in lariat basket making and leather tooling on May 24, sponsored by the Carson Valley Arts Council (CVAC) at the Copeland Cultural Arts Center in Minden.

The six-hour class begins at 9:30am and costs $55 plus $10 for materials, which will be provided by the instructor.

Myers uses coiled nylon lariat rope, of various colors and textures, and incorporated pieces of intricately tooled leather, to build uniquely designed, rustic baskets. Myers,

who spent many years as a Montana cattle rancher, said that his baskets turn the old lariats he accumulated over years of “working cattle and tying gates” into legitimate art pieces.

Myers’ baskets have been wildly successful, and he frequently partners with the Nevada Arts Council in arts outreach efforts. He guarantees his students leave class with completed baskets of their own.

For registration or additional information,visit www.cvartscouncil.com or call (775) 782.8207. Limited space available.

Open mic night for youths

Carson Valley Arts Council hosts an evening of performances by youth on May 15 from 7-9pm at the Copeland Cultural Arts Center Purple Cow ArtBar in Minden.

The monthly event at CVAC and organized by Theatre of Arts Discipline (TOAD), invites young people ages 5-18 to perform prepared pieces in whatever genre they choose – from poetry and monologue recitation to singing and dancing.

Kris Garrett, Artistic Director of TOAD, called the event an “open mic night for kids,” at which youth can share and embrace each others talents. It is free to perform and free to be in the audience, with open sign-ups and as many performers included as time allows.

For additional information, visit www.cvartscouncil.com/cvacevents or call (775) 781.0150.