Beach Boys’ Wilson turns to Gershwin

Reno Gazette-Journal

Brian Wilson, songwriter and producer for many classic Beach Boys songs, has been on a creative roll for this past decade. His acclaimed 2004 remake of the lost Beach Boys album “Smile” was followed last year by “That Lucky Old Sun,” a song suite featuring that standard plus new compositions.

Now Wilson is completing unfinished songs by one of his musical idols: composer George Gershwin. This project is being recorded now for release next year, a swift undertaking in stark contrast to the decades between Wilson albums in the ’80s and ’90s.

Wilson also continues to tour, playing not only his new works but also Beach Boys songs. He and his band will play Dec. 5 at Harrah’s Lake Tahoe.

Read the whole story

Federal tourism act could benefit Tahoe

By Ray Hagar, Reno Gazette-Journal

Pending federal legislation that would establish a national visitors commission to promote the United States as a premiere international travel destination could be a boon for Nevada tourism, experts said.

“This is a great idea, and we do need to drive international travelers,” said Krys Bart, president and CEO of Reno-Tahoe International Airport. “We know that international travelers stay longer and spend more money.”

The Travel Promotion Act would establish a public-private entity similar to the convention and visitors authorities in Reno and Las Vegas. The new national travel commission would drive $4 billion in new consumer spending and create 40,000 new jobs, according to Oxford Economics, which is a leading economic forecasting consultancy.

Read the whole story

Cutting a tree adds magic to the holiday

By Kathryn Reed

Charlie Brown Christmas trees are more abundant in the wild. Mother Nature doesnâ€™t seem to make perfectly coiffed trees.

Those â€œperfectâ€ trees are found on lots because the owners of tree farms took the time and had the patience to make them so.

Many people make the tree cutting an annual event. Itâ€™s not just people in Tahoe who do this. All those trees on car roofs, and sticking out of trunks and back windows are most likely people who came to the lake to cut their tree.



Cutting a Christmas tree is a ritual for many in Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Cutting trees is not a solitary event. It usually takes two haul it back to the car â€“ especially if youâ€™ve hiked in a ways.

A group of friends gathers each Thanksgiving weekend in Stateline for a hearty breakfast before trekking into the forest with saws.

This year one Tahoe Paradise couple got a permit to cut a massive tree for their high-ceiling living room, while allowing family to cut small trees off their property.

Another couple, Rene and Mark Gorevin have been cutting their tree on and off for more than 20 years, having started the tradition when they lived in the Bay Area and did so at a farm there.

â€œBefore the (2007 Angora) fire, we were even able to cut down fairly close to our house in allowed Forest Service land,â€ Renee Gorevin said. â€œThat was fun as we took turns carrying it back to the house. The last 100 yards or so would involve some complaining about who wanted such a tall tree – of course everyone blamed mom-which I admit was true – our hands full of fresh pitch, our arms and backs straining. Thank

goodness Mark has the tools and skills and is able to build a stand for the tree as cutting down your own means you can’t pay the extra three bucks to have the lot crew attach the stand.â€

Holidays are about traditions and making memories. The Gorevins certainly provided what should be a lasting memory for an exchange student from Mexico.

â€œI remember Ilenia was cold all winter as she was used to 70 degree weather at Christmas time. Naturally that year we had to get a big tree to show off, especially in our open beam great room,â€ Gorevin said. â€œShe was thrilled and amazed to be able to take a short hike to USFS Christmas tree land and offer her advice about which tree to choose. What a trooper she was, bearing the cold, the sawing and carrying that 12-foot tree back home. We needed the big ladder to decorate that year.â€

If imperfection is what you are looking for this holiday season, then consider getting a permit from the U.S. Forest Service to cut a tree. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit issued about 3,500 permits in 2008.

National Forests have allowed the public to cut trees for decades, but it wasnâ€™t until 2003 that the local office started to do so.

â€œThere are two main purposes. The first is to provide the opportunity for the public to participate in a traditional holiday experience. The second, this helps at least in a modest way in reducing the overcrowded densities of small diameter trees in portions of the basin,â€ Rex Norman, UFSF spokesman said. â€œThe white fir is the most sought after tree, and this type coincidentally, represents the majority of our small tree overpopulation.â€

Each year the Forest Serviceâ€™s vegetation management staff scours the land to choose which areas to issues permits for.

Maps are supplied when the permit is issued.

The Forest Service isnâ€™t trying to compete with the lots that opened last weekend. But the self-cutting is a lot cheaper, albeit more work, too. Permits are $10 and can be secured at the Forest Service office. All the money collected goes back to Washington into the general fund for the agency.

For more information, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/ltbmu/passes-permits/holiday-tree.shtml.

No matter where you get your tree, remember what Anna Getty, author of “I’m Dreaming of a Green Christmas” says – cutting a local Christmas tree is more green than artificial.

Nevada SAR plate in jeopardy



In order for Nevada specialty license plates to continue being offered by the Department of Motor Vehicles, the organization sponsoring the license plate needs to â€œsellâ€ 1,000 plates for 500 cars.

Nevada Search and Rescue organizations have sold about 300 of the Search and Rescue plates.

A portion of the money raised from the sale of these license plates is shared with each county Search & Rescue unit. There are 17 counties in Nevada.

Purchase of a standard SAR license plate is $61, with an annual renewal of $30. Purchase of a personalized SAR license plate is $96, with an annual renewal of $50. Additional

information is at http://www.dmvnv.com/platescharitable.htm#searchrescue.

South Tahoe man pleads guilty to sex trafficking

By Sean Emery, Orange County Register

An Irvine man was sentenced to 22 months in federal prison today for transporting prostitutes over state lines to work at Seattle-area brothels disguised as massage parlors and tanning salons.

Along with the prison sentence, Jesus “Jesse” Deleon was ordered to pay $152,000 and turn over eleven luxury watches at his sentencing hearing in a U.S. District Court in Seattle, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation officials said.

Deleon, who investigators say has already served 22 months in a California state prison for a similar crime in Sacramento County, will also serve three years’ probation after his release.

Deleon, along with Donald Kerry Frey of South Lake Tahoe, pleaded guilty to the sex trafficking charges in July. The two co-owned the Aloha Tanning Resort in Renton, the Avalon Spa in Seattle and the Malibu Tanning Spa in Tukwila.

Read the whole story

South Shore Chamber gala

The Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Holiday Gala Business After Hours Mixer at the Riva Grill on Dec. 10 from 5:30-7:30pm.

‘Tis the season of giving and helping those in need. The Holiday Gala will benefit local charities, including Tahoe Youth & Family Services, South Lake Tahoe Women’s Center and Christmas Cheer. While everyone is feeling the effects of the struggling economy, please join us in efforts to provide holiday gifts and food to the less fortunate in our community.Donations are critical in ensuring each of these organizations’ ability to continue serving the community.

A minimum $5 donation amd an item donation are required of all Holiday Gala attendees.A minimum $10 donation is required of attendees without an item donation.

Items on the charities’ wish lists include:

Non-perishable, commercial food

Wrapping paper, bows, tags, tape etc.

Gifts for children of all ages (especially teenage children)

Arts & Crafts Projects

Crayons and other art supplies

Books

Games

Soccer balls, footballs, basketballs etc.

Winter Hats/ Mittens/ Scarves etc.

Zip-up sweatshirts with hoods

Inexpensive MP3 players

Inexpensive jewelry

Nail polish sets, lotion/bath product sets

Gift certificates (iTunes, Ross, WalMart, Jack in the Box, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Beach Hut Deli, the Adidas outlet)

All things soft and fuzzy.

For more information, call (775) 588.1728 or visit www.tahoechamber.org .

Christmas at the Ketch

Celebrate your family and friends by treating them to a spectacular dinner with a great view at the Fresh Ketch in South Lake Tahoe.

There will be a special Christmas menu on Dec. 25 upstairs, along with the regular menu. Enjoy prime rib, pork loin & honey glazed ham with all the trimmings.

The Seafood Bar is open 11:30am-4pm (regular menu). Christmas Dinner served upstairs starting at 4pm. Reservations highly recommended. (530) 541.5683

Party at the Fresh Ketch

New Year’s Eve celebration at the Fresk Ketch in South Lake Tahoe.

Live music, five-course dinner with Champagne toast, and more.

The Seafood Bar will be serving the regular menu and the special New Year’s menu will be served upstairs beginning at 5pm.

Live entertainment from 5 O’Clock Charlie starting at 9pm. Reserve your dinner table by calling 530.541.5683

Truckee Tahoe choir at Squaw

The Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus of Sierra College, directed by Susan K. Horst, Chris Nelson, and Tom Acord, presents â€œClassically Christmasâ€ at the Resort at Squaw Creek, Squaw Valley on Dec. 12 at 7pm and Dec. 13 at 4pm.

The concert has become a tradition in the Truckee, North Tahoe region, ushering in the holiday season with light holiday classics, an audience sing along, and joyous classic literature. The chorus and strings will feature Mozartâ€™s Solemn Vespers and selections from Handelâ€™s Messiah.

General Admission $11, preferred seats are $20 and children and students are free. Six Peaks Grille and Sandyâ€™s Pub, at the Resort at Squaw Creek, will be offering a 20 percent discount on food with proof of tickets.

Advanced tickets are recommended. For more information, go to www.singttcc.org.

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