Woman shot at Carson Tahoe hospital, man in custody

By KTVN-TV

A woman has been shot at Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Center in Carson City.

Sheriff Ken Furlong tells Channel 2 News the shooting happened at 11:30 Sunday morning.

The shooting happened on the 3rd floor of the hospital. That floor is currently sealed off as officials investigate.

Read the whole story

Solar desalination may be answer to water woes

By Peter Kelly-Detwiler, Forbes

Aaron Mandell, founder and chairman of WaterFX, looks at California's water issue like a classic entrepreneur. Where others see problems, he sees opportunity for improvement and profit. And that opportunity is huge.

It is common knowledge that access to clean water is a mounting problem across the globe. However, few places have water issues as complex and challenging as California, which has been dealing with the water issue for generations (some may remember the 1974 Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway film "Chinatown" that focused on the California water wars of the

early 1900s). In California, the issue is highly complex, layered in a complicated history of rights, claimants, and the physical reality of too much demand for a limited supply. Water issues are also inextricably linked to energy issues: it takes an enormous amount of energy to pump, treat, and move water. So the water problem is not only limited to H2O, it's a costly energy issue as well.

Mandell hopes to change that reality. He has a vision for how to make that happen, starting with a clean and modular technology and an open source approach that he hopes will stimulate a growing community of solutions providers. His company, WaterFX, has created a solar-powered desalination system to treat agricultural drainage that is not only benign from an energy standpoint, but also leaves the agricultural environment in better shape.

Read the whole story

TOCCATA readies for Winter MusicFest

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus continues its 9th annual Winter MusicFest with the "Paul Guttman Piano Competition Winner" concert series Feb. 9, 11, 13 and 14.

The program opens with Bach's choral masterpiece Magnificat, featuring vocal soloists Anna Helwing, Joy Strotz and Katharine DeBoer, sopranos, Albert Lee and Sherman Modeste, tenors and Chris Langton and Stuart Duke, baritones. Jacob Warnick, the 16-year-old winner of the 2013 Guttman Piano Competition, will perform Saint Saens Piano Concerto Op. 22 in G minor, but the February 9 opening concert will feature Tony

Xie, the 2013 Piano Competition runner. Finalizing the concert will be Elizabeth Pitcairn, guest violinist, performing Max Bruch's Violin Concerto in G minor, on the legendary Red Stradivarius Violin. Maestro James Rawie will conduct all performances.

The performances are Feb. 9 at 3pm at St. Theresa Church in South Lake Tahoe (1041 Lyons Ave.); Feb. 11 at 7pm at Shepherd of the Sierra Church in Carson City (3680 Highway 395); Feb. 13 at 7pm at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Incline Village (341 Village Blvd.); and Feb. 14, 7pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Reno, (501 California Ave.).

A special soiree musicale fundraiser will take place at a private home in Incline Village on Feb. 15 at 2pm. Tickets are $100 per person. Elizabeth Pitcairn will perform, as well as several singers accompanied by Donna Axton on piano. For more details, call (787) 602.2121.

Tickets are available at the door or online, or at Tahoe City Visitor Center and Potlatch in Incline Village. General admission to all concerts is $30 adults, $25 seniors (advance purchase only), and $5 students aged 19 to 23 with valid ID. Preferred seating is $40 and $15 for youth/students. Youth under 19 years of age are admitted free, in non-reserved seating.

Book details ways to be smart about water use

By Bill Keep, Record Searchlight

In California prisons, inmates flush toilets to communicate,

to warn each other, and to flood their cells in protest. Wasteful? Yes, but compared to 2,500 gallons of water to raise a pound of beef? Or snow machines eating 10,000 gallons hourly to ensure skiers' pleasure during a dry winter?

The most difficult thing about a water crisis, says Robert Glennon in "Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It" (445 pages, Island Press, 2009) is convincing folks there's a crisis.

Besides the Colorado and the Rio Grande, almost 30 American rivers dry up before reaching their outlets. Thirty-five of the lower 48 states are engaged in water conflicts. Householders routinely haul water in Arizona, Tennessee and California, having none in their taps. Lakes Michigan and Huron have dropped 2 feet (the Great Lakes hold 95 percent of our fresh water supply). Groundwater levels have sunk 200-900 feet countrywide. Resulting subsidence affects 17,000 square miles of the U.S. – 40 feet from 19251970 in the San Joaquin Valley. And we drill 800,000 new unregulated wells a year.

Read the whole story

No snow: Non-Tahoe entity capitalizing on conditions

Publisher's note: ***This is one of a series of blurbs about how the lack of winter is impacting businesses in the Lake Tahoe Basin. If you have an idea, please email it to info@LakeTahoeNews.net.***

The Napa Valley Wine Train is trying to benefit from Lake Tahoe's lackluster snowfall.

A press release says, “To put those neglected Tahoe season passes to a good use, we are offering a discount of $30 off our Gourmet Express lunch and/or dinner experiences through March simply by mentioning The Napa Ski Pass when booking and presenting your Tahoe season pass during check-in.”

The wine train is recognizing all Lake Tahoe area season passes, not just resorts in the basin.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Blogger’s incarceration raises First Amendment issues

By Campbell Robertson, New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – For over six years, Roger Shuler has hounded figures of the state legal and political establishment on his blog, Legal Schnauzer, a hothouse of furious but often fuzzily sourced allegations of deep corruption and wide-ranging conspiracy. Some of these allegations he has tested in court, having sued his neighbor, his neighbor’s lawyer, his former employer, the police department, the sheriff’s department, the Alabama State Bar and two county circuit judges, among others. Mostly, he has lost.

But even those who longed for his muzzling, and there are many, did not see it coming like this: with Shuler sitting in jail indefinitely, and now on the list of imprisoned journalists worldwide kept by the Committee to Protect Journalists. There, in the company of jailed reporters in China, Iran and Egypt, is Shuler, the only person on the list in the Western Hemisphere.

A former sports reporter and a former employee in a university's publications department, Shuler, 57, was arrested in late October on a contempt charge in connection with a defamation lawsuit filed by the son of a former governor. The circumstances surrounding that arrest, including a judge's order that many legal experts described as unconstitutional and behavior by Shuler that some of the same experts described as self-defeating posturing, have made for an exceptionally messy test of constitutional law.

Read the whole story

Then and now: Highway 28 remains picturesque



Photo/UNR Special Collections Department

The early 1900s hand-colored postcard is captioned only as: "Lake Tahoe, near Reno, Nevada."



Photo/Google Maps

More specifically, likely it depicts what today is Nevada Highway 28 south of Sand Harbor.

– Bill Kingman

Donner Lake State Park captures its history



Donner Lake is uninviting on the lone stormy day of January. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

TRUCKEE – A park named after the Donner party should be visited in inclement weather. It's the best way to get a feel for what the 81-member wagon train went through in the winter of 1846-47.

While such weather has been scarce this winter, we ventured out in some last Saturday. Wind was blowing. The temperature was dropping. A mix of rain and snow drenched us. We were not as unprepared as the Donner party, which lost 36 people on the trek across the Sierra, but we certainly weren't ready for the elements.

For some reason we pushed on.



A soggy Sue treks through Donner State Park on Jan. 11.

Being at the ocean on a stormy day is something I've always enjoyed. This was a bit like that. While the waves were nowhere near ocean-like, they were strong enough to appreciate the force of Mother Nature.

Donner Memorial State Park does not have many places to hike, but there is a 2½-mile roundtrip interpretive trail that is in large part along the lake.

We were happy to have our Yak Tracks on to contend with the ice on the trail.

With all the rocks, it appears Donner Lake is low like all the other lakes in the state. Interestingly, one of the interpretive signs talks about the seven-year drought that started in 1987. The frail lodgepole could not defend against the mountain pine beetle that thrived in the drought-weakened trees. Strong winds in winter 1994-95 blew many of the diseased trees to the ground.

While this area is known for the deadly, cannibalistic wagon train, it is also home to part of the original interstate system. Before Interstate 80 there was Highway 40. Signs are still in the area depicting Old Highway 40.



The day use area has great views, including to the towering (invisible on this day) granite wall where the railroad is.

But before that for a short time it was Highway 37. It was part of the 3,000-mile Lincoln Highway that went from coast-to-coast.

Before automobiles, though, there was the train. On this particular day it was too overcast to see up to the tracks. Those who ski Sugar Bowl know the name Judah. Theodore Judah was an engineer who surveyed the first transcontinental railroad.

It was Charles Crocker, Mark Hopkins, Leland Stanford and Collis P. Huntington who formed the Central Pacific Railroad Company. Mostly it was Chinese who in two years built the tracks through the Sierra for these barons of industry who capitalized off of what amounted to slave labor.

To this day Truckee has a train depot that takes travelers to points east and west.

The natural beauty and intriguing history make the lake and park a multi-dimensional visit – no matter the weather or season.

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Notes:

• Getting there: From Lake Tahoe head west on Interstate 80. Take the Donner Pass Road exit. (There is a sign saying Donner State Park.) Go left at the stop sign. The park is on the left. It costs $8 to park or there is free parking on the road. If entering off the road, you'll see a sign that says "East Beach access" – veer left for the trail, right for the beach.

• Dogs are allowed on leash.

• A new museum – High Sierra Crossing Museum – at the park is expected to open later this year.

Editorial: Fairness to all – a fitting tribute to MLK

Publisher's note: ***This editorial is from the Jan. 18, 2014, Contra Costa Times.***

Next month the nation will celebrate the birthday of two presidents, in May we will honor those killed in our defense, in July the founders will be front and center, and in November we will thank our veterans.

But before we get to any of that, we have set aside Monday as a day to celebrate our conscience – our social conscience, to be exact. Since 1986, Americans have done that by observing a national holiday on the third Monday in January to honor the birth and life of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

Admittedly, some see Monday as just another three-day weekend that happens to fall during what used to be prime snow season (ahem). But that myopic view ignores the profound social and moral impact King has had on the nation. His life drove change that continues to influence our culture daily.

Read the whole story

White wins overall Sprint slopestyle tour

By USSA

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN -– Sage Kotsenburg (Park City) took the victory in slopestyle at the final stop of the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix Tour at Mammoth Mountain on Saturday. His progressive first run scored a full three points ahead of the rest of the field, including Kyle Mack (West Bloomfield, Mich) in second and Ryan Stassel (Anchorage) in third.

Nominations for the first U.S. Olympic team for slopestyle snowboarding will be announced Sunday after the final halfpipe qualifier.

In addition to Olympic qualification, athletes have been competing for a total of $500,000 in cash prizes throughout the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix tour, including a $10,000 bonus for Shaun White, who rides for Northstar, the winner of the Sprint U.S. Grand Prix Tour overall.

White sat out Saturday’s competition in order to rest before an attempt to qualify for halfpipe on Sunday.