

U.S. butter consumption spreading

By David Pierson, Los Angeles Times

For generations, butter got a bad rap. It was thought to be cloying, fattening, dangerous for your arteries, and it took a creaming from oil-based substitutes like margarine.

Now with the trans fats in those alternatives under fire, everyone from iron chefs to home cooks is reexamining butter's place on the refrigerator shelf.

That shift toward natural ingredients and the backlash against trans fats pushed butter consumption in the U.S. to a 40-year high in 2012, according to the latest statistics. Americans now eat 5.6 pounds of butter per capita, up from a low of 4.1 pounds in 1997. In the last decade alone, butter consumption has grown 25 percent.

Read the whole story

Colo., Utah snow balance Vail Resorts finances

By Ed Sealoover, Denver Business Journal

Increased skier visits to Vail Resorts' Colorado and Utah resorts is lifting the company enough to overcome terrible snow conditions at its Lake Tahoe-area locations, CEO Rob Katz said Monday.

Broomfield-based Vail Resorts Inc. reported that the number of people visiting its Canyons Resort ski area in Park City and its four Colorado resorts – Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone – increased 7.4 percent through Jan. 6 as compared to the same time frame in the 2012-13 season.

Snowfall in Lake Tahoe is down 85 percent compared to last season, and skier visits Heavenly, Northstar and Kirkwood declined by 23.4 percent, Katz said.

Read the whole story

Joan Tapp – 1920-2014

Joan Tapp of South Lake Tahoe died Jan. 4. She was 93.

One of five children, Joan grew up in Ottawa, Canada.



Joan Tapp

She married Eric Tapp in 1940. They relocated to California in 1952, settling in the San Fernando Valley where they raised six children.

For the 20 years she worked for Kaiser Hospital she never missed a day of work.

In 1989, Joan and Eric moved to South Lake Tahoe where their

daughter, Vicky, and her family lived. Eric passed away in 1991 and soon after Joan rejoined the workforce. She accepted a temporary position with One Stop Employment that lasted for several years; again never missing a day of work. Joan volunteered at Al Tahoe and Sierra House elementary schools.

Joan was active with the South Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Douglas senior centers where she enjoyed dancing, bingo, and delivering Meals on Wheels. On many occasions you could find Joan at her favorite casino playing the slots. She was a member of Saint Theresa Catholic Church and was on the board of some of Lake Tahoe's civic organizations.

Joan is survived by her six children, Michael (Diana), Susan, Elizabeth (Jim), Kathei (DJ), Vicky (Bennie), and Maureen; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; brother Robert, (Vancouver, Canada); and sister Francis (Ottawa, Canada). She is preceded in death by brothers, Maurice, Emile; and sister Girlie, all of Ottawa, Canada.

A celebration of Joan's life will be in the spring, the time of year she loved so dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Joan's name to Barton Hospice, Tahoe Douglas Senior Center, or South Lake Tahoe Senior Center.

Study: Non-drinking teens on the rise

By Herb Scribner, Deseret News

It looks like teenagers aren't hitting the bottle as often as

before. On Jan. 10, BBC News Magazine published an article that looked at the teenage non-drinkers, who are finding other ways to celebrate and have fun without sipping the sauce.

“UK teenagers might have a reputation for binge drinking, but in reality the number of young people consuming alcohol has declined sharply,” wrote Catrin Nye and Hermeet Chadha for BBC.

Teenagers are stepping away from alcoholic drinks and finding other ways to spend their time, BBC reported. The article highlighted Liam Brooks, an 18-year-old from east London, who had to put drinkers to bed and said “there is no pretty drunk,” BBC reported.

BBC’s findings are based on a 2012 report by the National Health Service statistics that found 12 percent of those age 11 to 15 said in 2011 they have sipped alcohol within the last week. This number is down from the 26 percent found in the previous decade, BBC reported.

Read the whole story

Terrain-based ski lessons speed learning process

By Holly Ramer, AP

NORTH CONWAY, N.H. – Allison Willette’s first few skiing lessons left her with a sore butt and aching knees but not a lot of skills. But one day’s worth of terrain-based learning made all the difference.

“Yesterday was probably the first day that I enjoyed it,” she

said.

The instruction Willette got at Cranmore Mountain Resort is a new approach that uses sculpted zones to control students' speed and reduce fears and falls. Without worrying about sliding down the mountain out of control, students can focus on building skills because the banks, berms and bumps naturally slow them down.

That means less emphasis on "snowplowing," or pointing the skis into a wedge shape to slow down. Less time learning to stop, more time learning to go.

"Back in the good old days, we used to get people into a wedge right off the jump, but the wedge was more of a defensive posture, something to slow down and stop with," said instructor Dave Bartlett. "But we were kind of resisting the forces we're working with."

The new method puts the emphasis on shaping those forces, Bartlett said, getting students more comfortable more quickly.

Willette, of Hadley, Mass., tried it out last month with her 8-year-old son. He had never been on skis; the few times she had she'd always felt intimidated. Both made quick progress.

"It allowed you to physically feel what the turn should feel like, and then you just naturally push in the right direction. So you kind of disengage your brain, and you can do it," she said. "I learned quickly how to make turns there, and I was able to apply that to the flatter field."

Students start out on flat snow, getting a feel for their skis. The next zone is a mini-pipe, where they slide down one side of a gentle, U-shaped slope and part way up the other. The slope is a bit steeper in the "roller" zone, which is followed by a short section of trail with banks and berms that guide students through three turns. The "traverse trax" zone includes eight turns and is the last stop before students head

to the chairlift to try out a beginner trail.

Cranmore, along with Vermont's Bromley Mountain and Jiminy Peak in Massachusetts, is one of three New England resorts that partnered with the consulting firm Snow Operating LLC to start terrain-based learning this year. Others that have adopted the approach in recent years include Breckenridge and Vail in Colorado, Northstar in California and Mountain Creek in New Jersey.

Kelly Coffey, training manager for the Breckenridge Ski and Ride School, said he has seen a marked improvement in his students, sometimes even before they actually try out the course. A family of four who took a lesson around Christmas were visibly nervous when they put on their skis, but by the time he finished explaining the zones, they were more relaxed.

"I could just see the tension in their bodies just flow out," said Coffey, who also is a freestyle specialist for the Professional Ski Instructors of America. "From then on, I was able to get them to move a lot easier, and more gracefully, and we could progress more quickly. There were times I wanted them to turn, and they didn't accomplish it, but they didn't panic."

Karen Dolan, director of Cranmore's snowsports school, said she has seen many trends come and go during her 40 years in the industry, but she believes terrain-based learning has sticking power because it makes learning more fun. And boosting the fun factor makes it more likely that students will return – a key motivator for Cranmore and other resorts given that nationally, 85 percent of skiers never try it again after their first outing.

Mountain Creek saw its so-called conversion rate rise from 17 percent to 65 percent after implementing terrain-based learning. It remains to be seen whether Cranmore will see a similar increase, but Dolan said that kind of improvement

would more than justify the \$37,500 expense of building and maintaining the new terrain zones. In the meantime, the entire resort, including groomers, snow-makers, instructors and managers, is getting used to the new program.

“They all have to be part of this culture change and understand why we’re doing it. It’s everybody’s job to convert skiers and riders,” she said. “They’re here, marketing spent a lot of time getting them here, so let’s make sure that they’re having fun.”

First-time skiers and snowboarders can try terrain-based learning for free on March 9 at the three New England resorts if they register in advance. The promotion, limited to 150 people at each resort, includes equipment rental, helmet rental, a lesson and a beginner’s lift ticket.

S. Tahoe woman arrested after high-speed chase

A South Lake Tahoe woman was arrested Sunday night after she led multiple law enforcement agencies on a high-speed chase.

Carson City sheriff’s deputies first tried to pull over Samantha Rose Randazzo. The 32-year-old kept going over Spooner Summit, into Douglas County, crossed the state line and was finally stopped near Highway 50 and Tallac Avenue in South Lake Tahoe at 6:15pm Jan. 12.

“The female driver was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon – that being her car – against law enforcement officials,” South Lake Tahoe police Lt. Brian Williams told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Randazzo reportedly rammed her vehicle into a Carson City sheriff's vehicle which had successfully positioned itself in a manner to stop the suspect. Capt. Clay Wall with the Carson City department was not available for comment.

Randazzo also faces charges of driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license and felony evading with disregard for public safety.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Teens working on a book, story or poem are invited to meet with fellow writers for an afternoon of socializing, discussion, and writing. This free workshop sponsored by Friends of the Library is on Fridays through Feb. 28 at 3pm at the South Lake Tahoe Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.

- Jack Duran is now chair of the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

- Lake Tahoe Unified and Lake Tahoe Community College's boards will meet Feb. 11 at LTCC to discuss how they can maximize education and technology resources.

- Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Area will be closed Jan. 13-16, with plans to reopen Jan. 17-Jan. 20 with the Learning Center and Ski School open to conduct first-time and beginner lessons.

- The Western Nevada Musical Theatre Company will conduct

auditions for “Chicago” Jan. 14. For more information, call (775) 445.4249.

Supreme Court to hear broadcast copyright case

By Andrea Peterson, Washington Post

Aereo is a company that sells access to live television programming over the Internet – without paying broadcasters for the privilege. Unsurprisingly, broadcasters don’t like that. In fact, they dislike it so much that they’ve engaged in a lengthy legal battle to shut Aereo down. And Friday, the Supreme Court agreed to hear their case.

Aereo uses small HDTV antennas to receive over the air broadcasts – just the television any normal consumer with a digital antenna could receive over the air for free, not cable channels – and mirrors their content on their own servers. Users pay a small monthly fee for control of one of those antennas, as well as features including a cloud hosted DVR service. Broadcasters have alleged this counts as “retransmission” – which would require Aereo to pay fees for privilege – or else a public performance that infringes copyright.

But Aereo argues that since each subscriber is assigned their own antenna to control, it doesn’t violate the federal copyright laws. And a majority opinion from New York’s Second Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with the streaming service.

Read the whole story

‘Young Frankenstein’ at STHS

The musical comedy “Young Frankenstein” written by Mel Brooks will be at South Tahoe High School’s theater Jan. 17-19 and Jan. 24-26.

The Sunday shows are at 2pm, while Friday and Saturday performances are at 7pm.

Tickets are \$15, seniors and school district employees \$10, and students \$5. Tickets are available at the ASB Office at school. (Cash or checks only.) To purchase tickets online a \$1 service fee will be added.

Before the Jan. 25 show there will be a fund-raising dinner for Tahoe Arts & Design Academy.

The \$30 steak and lobster will be prepared by the Romagnolo family in the student union at 5pm. Dinner guests get discounted tickets to the show.

For more info, call (530) 541.4111.

Brakes put on special S. Tahoe parking meeting

By Kathryn Reed

Parking will not be on the Jan. 14 South Lake Tahoe City

Council agenda.

The special 7:30am Monday meeting to consider creating another special meeting just for parking was not without drama, though.

Mayor Hal Cole requested the Jan. 13 meeting. Per state Government Code it would take a two-thirds majority to have had the parking issue heard Jan. 14 because the agenda for that meeting had already been posted. In other words, four of the five had to vote for the measure. Cole had the power to call for the item to be put on the agenda without his colleagues' support, but he said he would defer to the council's wishes.

Councilwoman Angela Swanson left at 8:15am before the vote because she had another city-related meeting to attend in Meyers. Swanson had previously been non-committal how she would vote – saying, “I feel like we are catering to one portion of the electorate in addressing the issue. I don't like the precedent it is setting. This is a knee-jerk reaction.” Then she added that she wanted to support the mayor.

Councilwoman JoAnn Conner, as the other city rep on the ambulance JPA, stayed at the council meeting until it was over at 8:22am.

Conner believed it was too important of a topic to push through without careful analysis. Neither the council nor the public would have had even 24 hours to read the staff report had parking been added to Tuesday's discussion.

Had Conner left early only two of the three remaining members would have needed to support getting parking on the Jan. 14 agenda. And based on the 2-2 vote, Conner made the difference.

She along with Councilwoman Brooke Laine voted no to hearing parking on Tuesday.

Fourteen members of the public were at the meeting. Most are advocates of revoking the entire paid parking program in the city as well as getting a measure on the ballot to do just that. The group says it has the signatures to get it on the ballot, but officials with the El Dorado County Elections Department must still verify them. And there also remains doubt whether there is time for the question to be before voters in June. If not, there will also be an election in November.

The council as of today is slated to discuss the paid parking program at its Feb. 18 meeting. But what won't be part of the council discussion is the proposed ballot measure.