

DCSD changes locations of lake meetings

Douglas County School District board of trustees has moved the meetings at Lake Tahoe.

The new location is the meeting room on the first floor of the visitor center at 169 Highway 50 in Stateline.

The next school board meeting is Jan. 14 at 3:30pm at this new location.

For questions or more information, call (775) 782.5135.

Snow dance opens the skies in Lake Tahoe

By KCRA-TV

A “snow dance” performed by a group of traditional Native American dancers produced immediate results at Lake Tahoe on Saturday. It began snowing at the very same time the Eagle Wings Dancers appealed to higher authorities during a ceremony at Sugar Pine Point State Park, organizers said.



Snow and rain falls at
Donner Lake on Jan. 11.
Photo/LTN

About 20 young female dancers in traditional dress performed in conjunction with the annual Olympic Heritage Celebration, which commemorates the 1960 Winter Games at Squaw Valley.

Heidi Doyle, executive director of the Sierra State Parks Foundation, said she's becoming a believer in the snow dance because the Nevada-based group was booked for the ceremony in October and it's the first snow around Tahoe since early last month.

Read the whole story

Brown wants to add teeth to Prop. 98

By Kimberly Beltran, Cabinet Report

Last year Gov. Jerry Brown set out to fundamentally remake the state's funding relationship with schools – this year the Democratic governor has set his sights on remaking the state's seminal school funding guarantee, Proposition 98.

Perhaps best known for its byzantine formula that adjusts for economic growth, student enrollment and political temperament – the 25-year-old voter-approved spending measure has been criticized for decades because it limits the Legislature’s flexibility to deal with overall budget conflicts and at the same time setting a de facto floor – not ceiling – on how much gets spent on public education.

As part of his 2013-14 state budget formally released Thursday, Brown proposed putting a new constitutional amendment before voters that would strengthen the state’s existing Rainy Day fund but also put regulations on Proposition 98 in an effort to smooth revenue spikes.

Brown’s plan would to create a Proposition 98 reserve account, where deposits would be made when capital gains revenues rise to more than 6.5 percent of general fund tax revenues.

Read the whole story

Holland 4th in snowboardcross

By USSA

VALLNORD, Andorra -- Trevor Jacob (Mammoth) rode to his career first snowboardcross victory Saturday in the FIS Snowboard World Cup in Vallnord, putting him in prime position to make the Olympic team with just a month before Sochi.

Olympic medalist Lindsey Jacobellis (Stratton Mountain, Vt.) took third in the women’s race with Canadian rider Dominique Maltais sealing the victory. It was only Jacob’s 10th World Cup start.

A core of American men claimed three other spots in the top

10, including Nate Holland (Squaw Valley) in fourth, Nick Baumgartner (Iron River, Mich.) in sixth and Alex Deibold (Manchester Center, Vt) in 10th.

Deibold, Jacob and Holland have all satisfied the objective criteria for Olympic team qualification. The team will be named later this month.

Seth Wescott (Sugarloaf, Maine) was set for a comeback after a knee took him out of competition in March, but he missed qualifying by 0.02 on Friday.

Jackie Hernandez (Londonderry, Vt.) finished ninth with Callan Chythlook-Sifsof (Girdwood, Alaska) and Faye Gulini (Salt Lake City) taking 23rd and 26th.

Organic pot certification gaining ground

By Jason Hoppin, Santa Cruz Sentinel

CAPITOLA – Santa Cruz has long established its bona fides when it comes to organic farming. But a nascent effort now on the horizon could lead to a new title: the birthplace of certified marijuana.

Clearly echoing the organic movement of the 1970s, a handful of county leaders and responsible-minded medical marijuana growers and dispensary operators are formulating a set of standards that set a new bar for best practices and quality standards for pot. Even county farming officials are lending their expertise.

“Just like the food industry, you’re going to have Safeway dispensaries and Costco dispensaries. And you’re going to have New Leaf dispensaries,” said Colin Disheroon, operator of Santa Cruz Mountain Naturals, who is expanding his offerings of responsibly grown medical pot. “And that’s kind of our goal, to take it to the New Leaf step of things.”

Seen foremost as a way to comply with new county rules on marijuana cultivation, the certification program could represent a significant leap forward in early efforts to come up with standards in what remains a legally gray industry, but one taking cautious yet clear steps toward legitimacy by seeking government regulations.

Read the whole story

Print Club gathering in Meyers

Print Club will resume at Bona Fide HQ on the third Monday of the month – or Jan. 20.

Lovers of ink and art are welcome to work on an antique book press and an etching press.

Bring your supplies or pay the \$10 material fee.

The informal club meets from 6-8:30pm at 1069 Magua S., No. 4, Meyers.

Study: Hospitals are ripping off people

By Nina Liss-Schultz, Mother Jones

The United States has long been known to have one of the most expensive hospital systems in the world, and now a study indicates that hospitals are overcharging patients for medical services.

According to the study published Monday by National Nurses United, the largest nurses' organization in the United States, the price of many services has skyrocketed since the mid-'90s. Many hospitals have set charges at 10 times their cost. The 100 most expensive hospitals in the country, for example, in 2011 charged 765 percent of their costs, or \$765 for every \$100 of total costs.

Charles Idelson, a spokesman for NNU, says that even insured patients, whose insurance providers will offset some of the costs, will be affected by the price hikes. "The skyrocketing prices make premiums, co-pays and deductibles go up," Idelson says. Another recent study, by the Commonwealth Fund, found that "high deductibles and cost-sharing, along with no limits on out-of-pocket costs" may explain why even insured people struggle to afford health care.

[Read the whole story](#)

Jitloff top U.S. finisher in

giant slalom

By USSA

ADELBODEN, Switzerland – A stroke of bad luck zapped Ted Ligety (Park City) Saturday as the four-time Audi FIS Alpine World Cup giant slalom champ crashed midway through the final run. Ligety, who was third after the opening run, was poised for the podium when his left ski skipped off the snow at the instant he was turning sending it flying and Ligety spinning down the course. The rare crash opened the door for good friend Felix Neureuther of Germany to capture his second straight World Cup win and the first giant slalom victory for Germany since 1973.

Tim Jitloff (Reno) posted the best American finish with 24th.

Temperatures in the mid 40's caused the course to deteriorate rapidly in both runs allowing large bumpy ruts to form around the sharper turning gates.

Thomas Fanara of France was second ahead of World Cup giant slalom leader Marcel Hirscher of Austria, who now edges Ligety in the discipline points by 120 points.

Mancuso has best downhill finish of season

By USSA

ALTENMARKT-ZAUCHENSEE, Austria -- Julia Mancuso (Squaw Valley) punched her best Audi FIS Alpine World Cup downhill finish of the Olympic season on Jan. 11 with 13th to lead four U.S. Ski

Team athletes into the Zauchensee top 25. Elisabeth Goergl ended a two-year downhill victory draught for Austiran women with a stunning win ahead of teammate Anna Fenninger.

Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain), Laureenne Ross (Bend, Ore.) and Leanne Smith (N. Conway, N.H.) also finished in the top 25 with 22, 23 and 25, respectively.

The race was held with only one training run after Friday's session was canceled due to heavy snow.

No snow: Wheels save sleigh ride business

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 info@LakeTahoeNews.net.*

Sleigh rides through the woods are a Lake Tahoe tradition. So are carriage rides.

Fortunately, the Borges family is flexible with what it offers guests.

For the past 47 years the Borges have offered sleigh rides in the field in Stateline next to MontBleu casino. But snow can be a problem so Plan B had to be instituted.

Dwight Borges told *Lake Tahoe News* the holiday season was very good for business because the carriages were out. They are stationed in front of Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel in South Lake Tahoe.

He said people love to see the horses.

It's hard to pass by the carriages and not see someone petting a horse and engaging the driver in a conversation.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*