Webinar to explain Forest Service plan

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will putting on a webinar to explain the final Land Management Plan.

The webinar will be Jan. 14 from 2-3pm.

The webinar will explain the plan, highlight changes from the draft, and outline the remainder of the plan revision process and include a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer period. The webinar will be archived on the LTBMU website for later viewing.

Participants must have Microsoft Office Live Meeting installed on their computer to access the webinar.

To access the webinar via Microsoft Office Live Meeting, go online. Use the 888.844.9904 to connect to the audio portion of the webinar; participant code is 4849484.

Avalanche courses at Squaw, Alpine

Skiers and snowboards may take advantage of avalanche education courses at Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows starting Jan. 8.

The one- and three-day courses teach the basics of snow

science, how to access and read the avalanche advisory, how to operate standard avalanche equipment (beacon, probe, and shovel), and, most important, how to make good decisions.

The three-day AIAIRE Avalanche Leavel 1 Certification course is Jan. 8-10 for $389, and the one-day avalanche awareness course is Jan. 12 for $149.

Additional courses will be offered at both Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows in February and March.

Full information including additional dates and details is available online.

Wheat straw being used for paper instead of trees

By Nick Leiber, Bloomberg

Actor Woody Harrelson is known for his roles in such films as “White Men Can’t Jump,” “Natural Born Killers” and “The People vs. Larry Flynt.” He’s also an environmentalist who in 1998 co-founded Prairie Paper Ventures to make paper from crop waste instead of trees. The idea is to save forests as demand for paper increases despite lofty claims about the coming paperless era. “Just know that two boxes of this paper saves one tree, so you can make a very real difference,” Harrelson says in a video on the company’s site promoting its “new paper paradigm.”

It took around 14 years for the Winnipeg business to develop a way to turn wheat straw left over from harvesting into paper.

The result is just as high-quality and affordable as the conventional stuff made from wood, says Jeff Golfman, who co-founded Prairie Paper with Harrelson and Clayton Manness, a former Manitoba finance minister. Manufactured in two mills in northern India, the line, called Step Forward, acts like regular paper and works in standard printers. “We like to say the most remarkable thing about our paper is how unremarkable it actually is,” says Golfman. “Where our process is unique is in the formulas [and] recipes we’re using.”

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Read the whole story

Explosive device found outside El Dorado County office



This explosive device was found in Shingle Springs. Photo/Provided

El Dorado County's bomb squad today detonated an explosive device that was found outside the Probation Department in Shingle Springs.

The suspicious device was found Monday at 7am.

A section of pipe approximately 8 inches by 1.5 inches was capped on both ends, according to officials. A makeshift fuse appeared to be attached to the object.

The building was evacuated for about three hours.

Officials said in a press release that it was "an explosive device that had malfunctioned."

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

K's Kitchen: Feasting on nachos

By Kathryn Reed

Sometimes it is better not to be a statistic – like being one

of the U.S. households that throws out $1,200 worth of food a year.

I try to discard as little food as possible. I do this partly because I'm cheap, partly because I usually only buy food when I'm going to cook with it and partly I try to be a little creative in the kitchen.

Composting is one way to re-use food. I did this when I lived in Sonoma County, but I have not tried it in Tahoe. I know others have been successful here.



Veggies on the wilted side are good for soups or dishes where presentation doesn't matter. Pureeing veggies is a sure way to make sure no one knows what they looked like to start with.

Nachos are a meal I like to make when I don't really want to cook. It's also a way for me to clean out the fridge. No two concoctions are ever the same. They are also great to nosh on during football playoffs.

I usually start with onion and garlic, add whatever veggies I have. I can't think of a vegetable I wouldn't use. I try to use fresh. But I have corn kernels in the freezer from last summer's farmer market that can be used.

Sometimes a can of diced jalapenos is thrown in. I like fresh cilantro in the mixture as well as distributed on top when the nachos are done cooking. I add two cans of black beans, sometimes refried beans, and I've mixed pinto and black beans, and red and black beans.

I make a huge batch each time. I like to reheat them for breakfast or lunch. Making one meal and living off of it for a few days is perfect for me. If you don't do leftovers, then make them on a plate to better judge the mound you are

creating.

The amount and kind of cheese is up to you.

Kitchen Sink Nachos

1 bag tortilla chips

Grated cheese

2 cans beans

Olive oil

Onion, diced

Minced garlic

Vegetables, diced

Cilantro, fresh or dried

Salsa

Preheat oven to 250 degrees.

Lightly coast a pan with olive oil. Once it’s hot, toss in onion and garlic. Add vegetables based on what takes the longest to cook – which is usually hardest to softest. Add beans. Cook over medium heat until mixture is hot. Season to your liking – herbs, hot sauce, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper.

Pour half the bag of chips onto a jelly roll pan – the ones with a side so stuff doesn’t ooze out. With a slotted spoon, spread half of the bean mixture across the chips. Cover with a layer of cheese. Add the rest of the chips, beans and cheese.

Bake until cheese is melted.

Remove from oven – time to add salsa, avocado/guacamole, sour cream.

Dive in.

Unemployed tend to exercise more

By Bill Bradley, Outside

I lost my job in December. The writing had been on the wall since the first round of layoffs in July. No one was surprised. The company treated the departed well and ushered us out the doors with severance papers in hand. I'd been employed since I was 14—thank you, Stan at the Cottage Café, for giving me my first shot—and had no clue what to do, so I just started running.

I've been a runner since I was in junior high, so it's not like I lost my job and went full Forrest Gump. I ran my first marathon in October while still employed. (A complete disaster.) Without the constraints of a desk job and with new found free time on my hands, I ran whenever and for however long I wanted. Gone were the days of squeezing in five miles before work. I sure as hell didn't have anywhere else to be.

A 2011 study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that white-collar workers exercise more when they're unemployed. "From an economical jargon, the time cost or opportunity cost is now lower," said Dhaval Dave, co-author of the study and economics professor at Bentley University. "So you should see a lot more people exercising."

Read the whole story

Schools benefit from growing interest in lottery

By Ryan Menezes, Los Angeles Times

After years of decline, the California Lottery is booming. The jackpots are bigger, and that’s drawing more players and excitement.

The turnaround is due to changes made to the lottery in 2010, when revenues were on the decline. The changes brought bigger prizes, but they also altered the formula for how much revenue schools receive. And the long-term effect of those changes is far from clear.

With lottery revenue booming, the money sent to schools has increased. In the 2011-12 fiscal year, the lottery wrote a check of $1.3 billion to California public education, the 12th straight year that the lottery contributed more than $1 billion. But the gap between the share of lottery revenue going back to prizes and the percentage sent to public education is widening, according to audited financial reports the lottery publishes on its website.

Read the whole story

White House launches student

film fest

Submissions are being sought for the inaugural White House Student Film Festival.

It’s a video contest created for K-12 students. Finalists will have their short films shown at the White House. Finalist videos may also be featured on the White House website, YouTube, and social media pages.

Films should address at least one of the following themes:

How you currently use technology in your classroom or school, or the role technology will play in education in the future.

More information is available online.

Full moon yurt dinners in Tahoe City

The Winter Discovery Center at Tahoe Cross Country is putting on two full moon yurt dinners.

The evening starts with a moonlit hike, ski or snowshoe from the Tahoe XC trailhead where there will be hot mulled wine and hot chocolate next to a roaring fire. The terrain is gentle. A three-course hot meal awaits in the dinner yurt.

Chef Douglas Dale of Wolfdale’s will providing the meal on Jan. 17 and Jan. 18, 6-9pm.

The dinners are fund raisers for the facility’s 30-foot Pacific yurt.

Call (530) 583.5475 or email valli@tahoexc.org to make a reservation. Tickets are $70 per person.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Falco

Falco is a very cute little white Bichon Frise who will be even more handsome once he gets a good grooming.

Falco was brought to the shelter in bad shape. He hadn’t been groomed in many months, and his fur needed to be cut away to enable him to walk correctly. He’s on the shy side, but he warms up quickly and will be happiest receiving lots of attention. Falco has a very sweet disposition, gets along well with other dogs and is OK with cats.

Falco is neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Go online to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the

shelter.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz