Large pool of players for World Series of Poker

By Case Keefer, Las Vegas Sun

A summer series that has already produced the second- and third-largest tournaments in poker history can now add a third top-10 event of all-time.

The 2014 World Series of Poker Main Event had attracted the seventh-most entrants of any live tournament in history by the time registration closed Monday evening. After three separate starting days beginning Saturday, 6,683 players had paid the $10,000 entry fee to compete in poker's world championship.

While that falls short of the 7,977 players who entered the $1,500 buy-in Millionaire Maker and the 7,862 who paid $1,500 for the Monster Stack event earlier this summer, it's still an upward tick for the Main Event. For the first time since 2010, the Main Event beat the previous year's number.

Read the whole story

Nev. housing market makes steady gains

By Jennifer Robison, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada's housing market closed out the first half of 2014 with steady gains.

Monday numbers from the Greater Las Vegas Association of

Realtors showed continued increases in median prices, even as sales fell, inventory improved and investment activity shrank.

The median price of a single-family resale in June was $199,900, up 14.2 percent from $175,000 in June 2013, and up 2.5 percent from $195,000 in May. That median is the highest the association has reported since September 2008, although it's still well below a June 2006 peak of $315,000.

Association President Heidi Kasama called the market's closing-in on a median of $200,000 "encouraging."

The single-family median price bottomed out at $118,000 in January 2012.

The median price of existing condos and town houses surged even more, jumping 26.7 percent year over year and 6.9 percent month to month, to $109,000.

Read the whole story

BMPs may become issue when selling property

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Lake Tahoe homebuyers and sellers beware because the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is looking to crackdown on erosion control measures at private residences.

There is a good chance that a year after escrow closes BMPs will have to be completed. And when it comes time for disclosure about BMPs, sellers may be asked to pony up the money to have them completed or for the selling price to be

reduced.

On July 8 a room of about 70 people, most of whom are in the real estate business, gathered to hear what the future of best management practices will be as well as to give the nine-member committee their opinions.



Rocks in front of this residence are a drip line so runoff from the roof doesn't pound the ground. Photo/LTN

A working group was convened earlier this year to address the BMP issue because the Regional Plan committee could not find a resolution prior to the update being adopted in December 2012. The group first met in March.

What has the real estate community up in arms is the possibility of requiring BMPs be done at the point of sale. Collectively, they said this would hurt their industry and is not the best way to achieve the main goal – which is to reduce sediment from reaching Lake Tahoe.

Even though it was pointed out in the staff report that primary roads are the overwhelming transporter of runoff, that was barely touched upon. Jason Kuchnicki with Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and Jason Burke with South Lake Tahoe brought it up, but the conversation went nowhere. (They are on the working group.) Of the five categories, single-family residences carry the least debris to

the lake. In fact, those parcels along with multi-family residences, secondary roads and “land use category” don’t collectively total the amount of sediment of primary roads.

It is Clem Schute, California’s rep on the TRPA Governing Board, and Dan Siegel with the California Attorney General’s Office (both working group members) who are pushing for the point of sale BMP requirement. They are willing to delay the discussion for two years when the Regional Plan will be updated. (That document is now being looked at every four years.)

But what they want now is any residence that is sold to have its BMPs within a year. The fine per day would be $5,000 – or nearly $2 million a year. It was pointed out how this practice is equivalent to having a point of sale mandate.

Shelly Aldean, Nevada Governing Board member who is on the working group, said the fine is already part of the TRPA Compact and is not something new.

Agents for years have chosen to have sellers disclose and buyers acknowledge whether BMPs existed. Now, they say, the market is dictating that BMPs are becoming a negotiating point without TRPA intervention.

All residences were supposed to have put in BMPs by now, but the TRPA has been lax about enforcement. (However, about 60 letters are going out soon to Al Tahoe residents.) Part of the lack of enforcement has to do with staffing, and part with the evolution of science since 1987 when the first Regional Plan was adopted.



Water from the Bijou area drains from a large pipe right into Lake Tahoe. Photo/LTN file

Plus, the passage of the total maximum daily load protocols calls for jurisdictions to reduce fine sediment in order to be in compliance with state agencies. Working on roads and larger erosion control projects is how they will achieve this.

It was stated at the meeting that even if all the residences in the basin did their BMPs, it would not add up to enough credits to satisfy the larger state goals. (Half of the residents in the basin have completed their BMPs.)

Many who spoke – including working group members – said the big picture is what should be looked at instead of going parcel by parcel. This includes putting together assessment districts like South Lake Tahoe has done with the Bijou properties. That is a multi-year project that is under way now that involves commercial and residential parcels.

But things like that take time. The Bijou process started in 2007. And when some property owners balked, the city and TRPA teamed up and threatened them with a lawsuit.

There was talk of looking at the areas in the basin that are the biggest contributors to sediment runoff and working to get those parcels into a stormwater district so it would have a greater environmental impact and likely cost less because of the economies of scale.

“The rest of the country is far ahead of us on this,” Joanne Marchetta, TRPA executive director, said.

At the Aug. 20 meeting the group is expected to finalize the TRPA document real estate agents use in regards to BMP disclosure.

In the meantime, security deposit forfeitures will be a topic for the Legal Committee to tackle. The discussion would cover the use of those funds and the possibility of targeting additional funds for BMP enforcement.

For next month’s meeting staff will also bring back a detailed document for how enforcement could be handled.

The group meets from 9am-noon (or longer as the case was Tuesday) at the TRPA offices in Stateline.

Other working group members are Karin Staggs (Nevada Tahoe Conservation District), Sara Ellis (Nevada Realtors), Shannon Eckmeyer (League to Save Lake Tahoe), and Woody Loftin (Natural Resources Conservation Services).

Letter: Another successful year at Camp Sunrise

To the community,

The Barton Health staff at Barton Hospice and the Barton Foundation would like to thank the many volunteers and sponsors that helped to make the seventh annual Camp Sunrise, a children’s bereavement camp, a success once again.

Camp Sunrise is a free camp offered to children ages 7 through

14 who have experienced the death of a family member or close loved one. This weekend camp provides grief education and support in a fun, safe and supportive environment on the grounds of Galilee Camp & Retreat Center.

Under the guidance of professional bereavement staff and volunteers, campers have the opportunity to meet with other children who have experienced similar losses and participate in activities involving art, music, and recreation. The children also attend daily support groups, enabling them to further explore their grief and work through any unresolved issues.

Teens and children are often forgotten mourners. And because they grieve very differently from adults, their needs are often overlooked. This is why Camp Sunrise is so important – we assist campers in developing healthy coping skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Camp staff wanted to express thanks to all of the volunteers and people who provided donations. Thank you to all of the volunteers, without you Camp would not be possible.

We would also like to thank the local groups, individuals, and businesses who contributed – Randi Arias-Losado, Divided Line Media/CJ Valera, Harrah’s and Harveys resorts, Kiwanis Club of Tahoe Sierra, Middlebrook Media, Niall McGuinness, Optimist Club of South Lake Tahoe, and Officer Jason Cheney and Tara with the South Lake Tahoe Police Department’s K-9 Unit.

Camp Sunrise is sponsored by Barton Hospice and the Barton Foundation. It takes place annually in June and all campers must apply to attend.

Rebecca Phillipsen and Tina Bruess

Ex-League leader to be on Bay Area city council

By Damin Esper, Contra Costa Times

ALBANY – Rochelle Nason has been named to the Albany City Council to finish out the term of Peggy Thomsen.

The vacancy was created when Thomsen, who was serving her fourth term as mayor, died June 8 at age 74.



Rochelle Nason

Nason, who has lived most of her life in Albany, was chosen by the City Council at its July 7 meeting, beating out Nick Pilch and Peggy McQuaid, the other two who applied to fill the seat.

Her environmental experience with the League to Save Lake Tahoe was cited by one council member as a reason for the choice.

“I’m happy, I’m looking forward to the challenges, I’m flattered because the other two candidates were both extremely strong and I share Mayor (Joanne) Wile’s view that they would be strong candidates in November,” Nason said. “I’m looking forward to serving on the council.”

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• The Tahoe Art League Artist Studio Tour is July 25-27 and Aug. 1-3 from 10am-5pm. Go online for more info.

• Douglas High grad Whitney Weaver won the Dave Fulstone II scholarship from the Nevada Heritage Foundation, which is the nonprofit associated with the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation.

• Meet urologist Bradley Anderson at an open house July 31 from 5-6:30pm at 2169 South Ave., South Lake Tahoe.

• The Bicycle Advisory Committee of the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority will meet July 11 from 9-11am at Lake Tahoe Airport.

• The Smiling Tree Symposium is an opportunity to learn about native and locally adapted trees and how to keep them smiling in your garden. The free event is at the Tahoe City Field Station (2400 Lake Forest Road) on July 15 from 5:30-6:30pm.

Climate-driven wildfires

consume USFS budget

By Alan Bjerga, Bloomberg

Wildfires blamed in part on climate change are consuming timber in the U.S. West at such a furious pace that half the Forest Service's budget is now spent fighting them – up from 21 percent in 2000.

Add in the firefighting of other agencies, as well as state governments, and the bill to taxpayers runs in the billions of dollars each year. And it's growing fast, driven by an urbanizing West as well as warmer and drier summers.

The cost has touched off a debate about whether the rush to quench blazes is obscuring the need to prevent fires by thinning deadwood and controlling insects or limit their impact by discouraging home-building in danger-prone areas.

"We don't always necessarily need more money," said Kim Rodrigues, a wildfire expert with the University of California's agricultural and natural resources department in Davis. "But we need more proactive efforts."

President Obama, citing a National Climate Assessment in May that mentioned wildfires 200 times, is proposing a shift in the way firefighting is funded and put blazes on par with hurricanes and earthquakes. That would boost funding and end the practice of taking money from mitigation and prevention to pay for disaster response.

Federal firefighting costs passed $1 billion for the first time in 2000 and have exceeded that mark every year but two. Together, the Forest Service and Interior Department have averaged $1.54 billion in fire suppression in the past decade. States pay another $1 billion to $2 billion annually, according to Headwaters Economics, a Bozeman, Mont.-based research group. Fires affected about 7.3 million acres a year

in the most recent decade, up 66 percent from the previous 10 years.

Read the whole story

K’s Kitchen: Roasted beet salad

By Kathryn Reed

Salads of all kinds are a staple in our house during the summer. But sometimes I need to get out of my rut.

That rut was broken with the salad below. This would be good with any kind of greens, including spinach. Many farmers’ markets sell lettuce and/or spinach, which is where I got mine. The beets and red onion were also from the market.

While the beets need to be roasted, ideally try to do this when cooking something else so you aren’t powering up the oven or barbecue just for the beets. Yes, barbecuing them would be a great option.

It used to be the only time I would like beets in a salad would be if I were at Skipolini’s Pizza. I grew up eating at the original one in Clayton. It is still my favorite pizza of all time. And while the pizza at the Folsom restaurant is the same, the salad is not. They don’t serve the original one there. It’s such a disappointment.

Even though the salad below is nothing like the one at Skip’s, it more than satisfies my desire for beets in a green salad.

Only dress the salad you are going to eat. Otherwise the

lettuce will wilt, and be soggy and nasty.



Roasted Beet Salad

3 medium beets

¼ C olive oil

2 T balsamic vinegar

1 T honey

2 T red onion, minced

½ tsp Dijon mustard

½ C crumbled feta cheese

½ C walnuts, chopped

Lettuce or spinach to serve six

Wrap beets in foil and cook for 1 hour in 400-degree oven. Let cool. Take skin off.

In small bowl, whisk together olive oil, vinegar, honey, onion and mustard.

Pour over greens, mix well. Top with cheese and nuts.

Injured paraglider rescued from 8,000-foot peak

It took precision work of Washoe County sheriff's deputies to rescue a downed paraglider from Herlon Peak above Sand Harbor.

The victim, whose name has not been released, went down about 6:30pm July 5 in a rugged area.

Approximately 20 sheriff's search and rescue volunteers responded, along with units from the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District. The location was not easily accessible by foot, so the Raven helicopter was called in.

The helicopter crew made cell phone contact with the victim and locates him between two sharp peaks at 8,000 feet.

The Raven team then brought the paraglider to the Ponderosa Ranch parking area, where Careflight took him to Renown Medical Center in Reno.

Here is video of the rescue.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Baseball career likely over for ex-UNR standout

By Michael Grant, Courier-Journal

Corky Miller’s season – quite possibly his playing career – is likely over.

The longtime Louisville Bats catcher is currently working as a roving minor league instructor within the Cincinnati Reds organization. Miller, who hasn’t played for the Bats since May, was recently in Billings, Mont., mentoring the Reds’ rookie league team.

“I don’t anticipate him coming back,” Bats manager Jim Riggleman said of the 38-year-old former UNR standout.

When asked if Miller’s professional career is over, Riggleman said: “You never know, but it looks like it’s moving in that direction.”

On May 22, the Bats placed Miller on the temporary inactive list, but he was moved to the disabled list June 13 with a lower back strain. However, he hasn’t been with the Reds’ Triple-A affiliate for months. Louisville is set at catcher with 23-year-old prospect Tucker Barnhart and 27-year-old Bryan Anderson. Miller has played 23 games this season, batting .190.

Before this season, Miller mulled over retirement and expressed interest in becoming a coach and possibly a manager.

Read the whole story