Spate of bear attacks on humans

By CNN

Bears rarely attack humans unless they feel threatened or territorial. But a 12-year-old girl jogging in Michigan is among the latest victims in a spate of bear attacks that has left seven people mauled in five states since Thursday.

Wildlife officials are running tests on a bear they killed to see if it’s the same one that mauled Abby Wetherell on Thursday evening. The girl from Cadillac, Mich., was out on her nightly jog when she was ambushed by a black bear.

“On her way back this time, a bear just kind of came out of nowhere and attacked her from behind, knocked her to the ground,” her mother, Elizabeth Wetherell, told CNN affiliate WXMI.

Abby tried to get up, but the bear kept charging.

“At that point, she didn’t know what to do because she had been injured severely and couldn’t get up, so she decided … to just lay there and play dead.”

Authorities also reported attacks in Alaska, Colorado, Wyoming and Idaho.

The Michigan incident was an anomaly, officials said.

Read the whole story

Book signing at Incline ice cream shop

Author Ryan Shea will be in Incline on Aug. 31 signing his book.

The Fernley resident has written “The Adventures of Bob: To Doodledip for Soup”.

The signing will be from 1-3pm at Susie Scoops Ice Cream, 869 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village.

For more information, contact Michelle Whitman at 877.727.0697 or michelle@keymgc.com.

Online master’s degrees may alter higher ed

By Tamar Lewin, New York Times

Next January, the Georgia Institute of Technology plans to offer a master’s degree in computer science through massive open online courses for a fraction of the on-campus cost, a first for an elite institution. If it even approaches its goal of drawing thousands of students, it could signal a change to the landscape of higher education.

From their start two years ago, when a free artificial intelligence course from Stanford enrolled 170,000 students, free massive open online courses, or MOOCs, have drawn millions and yielded results like the perfect scores of Battushig, a 15-year-old Mongolian boy, in a tough electronics

course offered by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

But the courses have not yet produced profound change, partly because they offer no credit and do not lead to a degree. The disruption may be approaching, though, as Georgia Tech, which has one of the country's top computer science programs, plans to offer a MOOC-based online master's degree in computer science for $6,600 – far less than the $45,000 on-campus price.

Zvi Galil, the dean of the university's College of Computing, expects that in the coming years, the program could attract up to 10,000 students annually, many from outside the United States and some who would not complete the full master's degree. "Online, there's no visa problem," he said.

The program rests on an unusual partnership forged by Galil and Sebastian Thrun, a founder of Udacity, a Silicon Valley provider of the open online courses.

Read the whole story

Developers have eyes on Old Jackson Highway area

By Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

Old Jackson Highway has had many personalities. Once a lazy path to the foothills past strawberry and hop fields, the east Sacramento County road today is a busy commute and truck route flanked by pit mines, rural ranchettes, small industry and encroaching suburbs.

Now, Sacramento-area leaders are in talks with Caltrans to

take control of the road, also known as Highway 16 and Jackson Road, so they can prep it for the biggest remake yet.

Officials in Sacramento County, the city of Sacramento and Rancho Cordova want to turn 11 miles of the two-lane highway into an urban street to serve as the spine for massive development.

The Jackson Highway area is being promoted as one of the Sacramento region's potential urban growth areas for the next 20 to 30 years. Developers are drawing up plans for as many as 30,000 housing units between South Watt Avenue and Grant Line Road.

Read the whole story

James A. Federico – 1920-2013

By Robert D. Dávila, Sacramento Bee

James A. Federico, a barber who built a family business into a well-known chain of Northern California beauty schools, died July 25 of Alzheimer's disease, his family said. He was 93.



James A. Federico

Mr. Federico spent 41 years as owner and president of Federico

College of Hairstyling, which grew to three schools in the Sacramento area and one in South Lake Tahoe. He led the company, which became a top training ground for thousands of students in the cosmetology field, from a Federico's school at Florin Road and 24th Street.

Mr. Federico was an industry leader in efforts to improve standards for beauty schools. He traveled around the United States as a member of an early national accreditation team. In 1966, he was the first Californian to be elected president of the National Association of Cosmetology Schools.

Read the whole story

Weather may adversely affect American Fire

The American Fire is at 14,765 acres.

The Robinson Flat Campground is closed. The Tahoe National Forest has issued a voluntary evacuation notice for Big Oak Flat located near the south end of the fire. Forest Road 43 (Robinson Flat Road) is closed at its intersection with Forest Road 96 (Mosquito Ridge Road). An emergency closure order is in place for portions of the Tahoe National Forest within and adjacent to the American Fire.

The National Weather Service has issued a Red Flag Warning beginning for today through Wednesday evening. Changing weather will likely affect fire behavior and where the smoke blows. The North Shore-Truckee-Reno areas have been the most impacted by smoke, though on Sunday it was noticeable on the South Shore.

The cause of the fire that started Aug. 10 is still under investigation. It is at 49 percent containment.

The public is invited to an American Fire update meeting at the Foresthill Veteran's Memorial Hall at 24601 Harrison St. in Foresthill at 7pm Monday.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Hazardous weather outlook issued by Weather Service

Expect a few days of nasty weather in Lake Tahoe starting today.

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a hazardous weather outlook for the basin and points east.

Afternoon and evening thunderstorms may produce heavy rain and hail in parts of the basin that could lead to flash flooding. Wind gusts could reach 50 mph.

The unstable air is expected to last through Wednesday. Tuesday and Wednesday are expected to pack the heaviest moisture.

The wild weather will affect points east, as well, like Reno, Carson City and Carson Valley.

With the storms is the likelihood of lightning, which has fire officials on heightened alert.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Larry

Larry is quite the little character, with loads of personality. And he's quite the mix – Dachshund? Jack Russell? Maybe with some beagle?

In any case, he's a lively and small bundle of happiness and energy, probably about 3 years old. Larry came to Tahoe from a Central Valley shelter looking for his new home, and will fit into just about any household.

Larry 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.

– Karen Kuentz

Celios keep Tahoe heritage alive on private ranch



Tom Celio outside the home where his grandparents lived, which is part of the 103 acres he owns. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

MEYERS – Not everyone struck it rich during the Gold Rush. Many of the men who came to California in search of gold ended up returning to work they knew.

Carlo Guiseppi Celio was one of those men.

He came to the United States from Switzerland. When he didn't strike gold, he began a dairy farm in Placerville.

In 1863 he homesteaded on property in what was known as the Upper Lake Valley area of the South Shore. The valley with its towering granite walls reminded him of his home in the Old World. Celio's first 160 acres on the South Shore were bought for $300, which he paid for in gold.

At one point the Celio stake in Lake Tahoe was about 4,000 acres, making them one of the largest landowners. They ran 500 head of beef cattle from Meyers into Meiss, Big and Freel meadows. During the fall cowboys drove the cattle on horseback to the West Slope of El Dorado County. It was a five-day journey.

Today, the Celios own 103 acres on both sides of South Upper Truckee Road, to the center of the Upper Truckee River, and crossing the Old Meyers Grade twice.

On Aug. 24-25 the property is going to be the site of a 150-year celebration of the ranch. This is one of the largest private property holdings in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Tours of some of the outbuildings will be available, stories of what life was like years ago will be told, and an old-fashioned cowboy barbecue will take place.

Recent history

Cattle no longer roam the property, but a handful of horses do.

Tom and Chris Celio in 2011 were deeded the property from Shirley Taylor. Taylor and Tom Celio are second cousins.

Taylor inherited the property from her mother, Hazel Taylor, who was a Celio. This was in 1985.

Taylor spent years refurbishing much of what had gone into disrepair. She inherited what she calls "13 old buildings and three outhouses." The house had always been a summer home. Taylor winterized it so starting in 1988 she could live there

year-round.

Since Tom and Chris Celio moved in full time they have put in a picture window above the sink that looks up to Echo Summit. Sitting at the kitchen table it’s hard to have eye contact with the people on the other side of the table with that view just above their heads. They have also taken out a wall that divided the kitchen and living room to open up the area more.

In 1986, Taylor was granted Timberland Preservation Zoning from the state Department of Forestry. This zoning restricts development and preserves the timberland. Selling wood was one way she could pay to bring the ranch back to life in at least a habitable manner.

In 1991, Taylor received the Forestland Stewardship Sward. Five years later she was honored with the California Tree Farmer of the Year award.

Through the 1990s many of the old buildings were reroofed, resided, and two foundations were reinforced.

But it was never going to be what it was based on the number of acres and environmental regulations that bind private property owners.

“My goal was to preserve the Celio ranch property as a tribute to the pioneering Celio family and hope that is continued in the future,” Taylor told *Lake Tahoe News*. “The Celio mural on the Meeks building (in Meyers) scheduled for a September completion, is my last effort to recognize the family.”

Various members of the nine generations of Celios who are in the United States have spent time at the ranch. Tom and Chris Celio are continuing that tradition with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild.

There will even be Celios at the celebration next weekend who haven’t met each other.

What it used to be like

In 1903, the Celios bought the town of Meyers, which consisted of a variety of businesses occupying 22 buildings. They were the largest employer at the time in this area.

The 125-head of dairy cattle required five people to milk them twice a day. Butter was made on site, which was then sold to locations as far away as San Francisco.

The family incorporated in 1905 and established a lumber company.

Lumber from the first mill built in 1910 provided the lumber for the house where Tom and Chris Celio live today. It was built in 1914.

But Carlo Guiseppi Celio knew better than to clear-cut the forest area, even though others were doing so.

The slaughterhouse was built in 1912. Beef was sold to the various resorts around the lake and at stores in Meyers.

Tom Celio points to how the circular metal contraption in the ceiling would hold the cattle upside down after they were shot and killed. The blood drained into a catch area that flowed into a bathtub on wheels that was under the building. The carcasses stayed there chilled for a couple weeks before being sold for eating.

The room was chilled from ice blocks that had been cut the previous winter from area creeks and lakes, and even from a pond at Tahoe Paradise Golf Course.

A stone’s throw from the main house is the house Norm and Ann Celio lived in when they were first married. They are Tom Celio’s grandparents and Taylor’s uncle and aunt.

Celio recalls the story of when his grandmother found out there was no indoor toilet. She nearly lost it and was ready

to leave. Norm Celio had been a bachelor at the lake and he was fine without that modern convenience. Still, he quickly added a bathroom to accommodate his new bride.

Today the house needs some work. Remnants from the past remain – old appliances, dishes and handmade furniture.

But the Celios were a clan of practical workers. Fancy antiques are not to be found here.

The Depression took its toll on the Celio operations. There wasn't as much family to keep things going, so some of the businesses were leased out.

By the 1950s developers were taking an interest in Lake Tahoe. That is when much of the property that became Tahoe Paradise and Christmas Valley was sold off. They were given those names by developers to entice people to buy houses in the area.

A series of gifting-inheritance-gifting transactions have kept the current 103 acres in the Celio family.

"This is one of the last pieces of old Tahoe," Tom Celio said with pride looking at the ranch.

–

Notes:

• Tickets for the 150-year celebration are $35 for Lake Tahoe Historical Society members, $40 for non-members. They may be purchased at the museum – 3058 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, or call (530) 541.5458.

• Tours are Aug. 24 from 10:30am-1pm, Aug. 24 1:30-4pm, Aug. 25 10am-1pm, and Aug. 25 1:30-4pm.

• Proceeds benefit the Lake Tahoe Historical Society.

ngg_shortcode_0_placeholder (Click on photos to enlarge.)

Letter: Bread & Broth thankful for support

To the community,

Over 90 Bread & Broth dinner guests enjoyed the full course dinner that was sponsored by Corporate Nevada Ltd. on Aug. 5.

Corporate Nevada Ltd. owner Matt Wiggins and fellow sponsor volunteer crew member Amber Prevost greeted each of the guests and made sure that they got ample first round servings of the dinner menu items. As the evening progressed, they helped serve “seconds” and handed out “to go” packages.

“We really enjoyed the experience”, Wiggins said, adding, “The food looked great.”

The $250 that Corporate Nevada Ltd. donated covered the cost of the food, utility costs and materials needed to prepare the evening’s dinner. It was the first Adopt A Day of Nourishment that Wiggins had sponsored and he was impressed with the service provided to the needy of the South Shore by Bread & Broth.

Bread & Broth would like to thank the generosity of Matt Wiggins and his commitment to his community and helping the less fortunate. As a nonprofit, all volunteer organization, Bread & Broth is only able to continue its Monday evening dinners at St. Theresa Church’s Grace Hall and Friday evening meals at lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church for the less fortunate due to the support of sponsors like Corporate Nevada Ltd.

If you would like to support Bread & Broth’s program, please contact me at (530) 542.2876 or carolsgerard@aol.com.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth