Squaw catering to electric vehicle crowd

Squaw Valley is the first California ski resort to install electric car chargers.

Use of the four car chargers is free for guests. They are open daily.

Squaw installed two CS-40 pedestal chargers from Clipper Creek, offering four 30 amp, 240 volt, J1772 charging stations. J1772 charging stations are a SAE standard for electrical connectors for electric vehicles, meaning the chargers will be compatible with most electric cars on the market today.

The new charging stations are located at the western edge of the Far East Building at Squaw Valley, next to the Cornice Cantina.

Invasive weed threatens Calif. vineyards

By Edward Ortiz, Sacramento Bee

A new invasive weed has been expanding exponentially along roadways in the Sacramento region and the state, prompting plant scientists to warn that its unchecked growth could end up costing taxpayers millions of dollars.

The new weed, named stinkwort for its turpentine-like odor, threatens to choke out native plant species. The weed also has

begun appearing in vineyards, raising a concern that it could affect the flavor of some grapes in the state's premier wine-growing region.

The low-lying weed, known by the botanical name Dittrichia graveolens, is a relative newcomer to the state, making its first appearance near Milpitas in 1994. It resembles a tumbleweed, and rarely grows taller than 3 feet. Its flowers are small and sport tiny yellow petals.

To the east, the weed has been seen on the side of roadways such as South Shingle Road in Placer County and in Diamond Springs in El Dorado County.

Read the whole story

Gays in Russia struggle for acceptance

By David M. Herszenhorn, New York Times

MOSCOW — If this article were published in a newspaper based in Russia, it could be labeled 18+ — like an X-rated movie — and start with the following disclaimer: "This article contains information not suitable for readers younger than 18 years of age, according to Russian legislation."

The police detained a man after an attack on a gay rights activist in St. Petersburg.

Such warnings, put on any articles that discuss homosexuality or gay rights, are the result of a law nominally aimed at

“protecting” children by banning “propaganda on nontraditional sexual relationships” but widely understood as an effort to suppress homosexuality and Russia’s fledgling gay rights movement.

The law, signed by President Vladimir V. Putin in June, has ignited international condemnation and blindsided the Kremlin with the sort of toxic political controversy that officials had desperately hoped to avoid ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi. The last Olympics on Russian soil, in 1980, was marred by the boycott over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The furor includes a boycott of Russian vodka in gay bars throughout the West and some calls for a boycott of the Sochi Games altogether. Beyond putting organizers on the defensive, it has cast worldwide attention on the cruel circumstances in which most gay people live in modern Russia.

Read the whole story

Bay Area residents buying Tahoe-Truckee real estate

By Pete Carey, San Jose Mercury News

The Bay Area’s economic recovery is sparking a surge of vacation home sales in the Lake Tahoe-Truckee mountain playground.

“Two or three years ago, nobody was buying houses, period,” said Patience Lewis, a Coldwell Banker agent in the Tahoe-Truckee area. “Now it’s like the floodgates have opened.”

In the first half of the year, Bay Area buyers helped drive second-home sales in the region to their highest level since 2005, according to the real estate company DataQuick. About a third of the region’s vacation-home buyers this year live in the Bay Area, a DataQuick analysis for this newspaper shows.

Fueled by tech’s spreading wealth and lured by the region’s pristine summer and winter beauty, the buyers range from families with young children snapping up condominiums in ski resorts at bargain prices to multimillionaires from Silicon Valley acquiring expensive lakefront estates.

Read the whole story

Pedestrian hit in Stateline ID’d, still in hospital

The pedestrian who was struck by multiple vehicles on Highway 50 in Stateline remained in critical condition at Renown Medical Center in Reno this morning.

Cody J. Dobson, 31, of Carson City was found Aug. 10 about 3:15am in the road near Lake Parkway by MontBleu casino.

“Alcohol does appear to be a contributing factor in this event as Dobson displayed signs of intoxication both at the scene and the hospital,” Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Chuck Allen said in a press release.

A witness saw a full size blue Dodge pickup strike the downed pedestrian. The pickup may have a camper shell matching the color of the vehicle as well.

Anyone with information about the accident is asked to contact

Trooper Doug Hildebrand at (775) 689.4623 or dhildebrand@dps.state.nv.us.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Quintet to play in Genoa park

Tepid Club of Cool is coming to Genoa on Aug. 18.

Tepid Club of Cool is an acoustic jazz/swing quintet playing swing style and American songbook type music.

Bring a blanket and picnic dinner to Genoa Town Park on Nixon Street.

The 5-7pm concert is free.

Job market requires reinventing yourself

By Darlene Quinn

Brushes with poverty, extended periods of joblessness and a reliance on welfare is part of the "new normal" for the

average American worker, according to data reported from the Associated Press.

Economic security isn't what it used to be before the economic crash of 2008; survey data points to the loss of manufacturing jobs, the globalized economy and a widening gap between rich and poor as reasons for why four in five workers in the United States will experience economic hardship in their lifetime.

I certainly don't envy what the average worker will likely endure throughout his or her career, but as an ambitious woman coming up through the ranks of corporate culture – the boy's club – many decades ago, I know the hardship of sustaining the career of your dreams.

Change is natural; change is life, and you don't have to be afraid of it.

Here is some career advice to struggling professionals:

• Parlay your strengths; experience and education isn't everything. Unfortunately, many workers are finding this out. Nowadays, even advanced college degrees are no guarantee of job security. It's not uncommon to find holders of master's degrees working in low-paying jobs. While a degree is still needed to get your foot in the door of most professional job openings, consider that which you most excel. As a professional, you may not be perfect in every aspect of your career, but there are activities in a job that you probably do regardless of work. Perhaps that's managing groups of people, writing or designing websites. What is your strength, and how does that translate to a more promising field?

• Shoot for the top. Of course, you don't have to be in a state of economic hardship to consider switching fields. The Internet is allowing us to be more connected than ever and permanently altering the employment landscape. Perhaps you see an opportunity in online education and, as an administrator on a college campus you know the weaknesses of today's

traditional university system. If you take well to new software, are available beyond the usual 9-to-5 hours and have a stable work history, then why not make more than a lateral move?

• Is it time to trade in that necktie or pantsuit for your passion? After having accomplished so much in the corporate world, I decided it was time for a new direction, so I pursued mu passion for writing and have done very well, winning multiple awards. Perhaps it’s time to take what you already love doing so well at home and apply it to a career. If you love cooking, for example, and others love what you create, you may want to consider a new career.

Darlene Quinn is an author and journalist from Long Beach, whose novels about deceit, intrigue and glamour in the retail fashion industry were inspired by her years with Bullocks Wilshire specialty department stores and are now in development for a major TV series.

Tahoe wilderness anything but desolate



Trekking through Desolation Wilderness. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

FALLEN LEAF LAKE – With 63,960 acres to explore in Desolation Wilderness, it's not necessary for the quest to be a peak. But if being on top of the world is the goal, there are plenty of mountaintops to choose from – including Mount Tallac.

Last month mom, Sue and I started off about 7am to see how far we could walk in this wooded area that spans the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Eldorado National Forest. We began the Sunday hike at Glen Alpine trailhead.



Cleo Reed and Sue Wood hiking in Desolation in July.

The rule is that you are supposed to fill out a form and attach it your daypack or backpack if staying overnight. This helps the U.S. Forest Service know where people are and how many are using this popular area. But there are no forms. I left a sheet of notepaper – just in case something goes awry someone might come looking for us.

It doesn't take long and I'm hitting myself. Sue and mom are swatting a bit, and we are all whining. Mosquitoes. They are everywhere. Later that night I'm scratching and those two are just looking at me.

It was so bad that Sue was asking backpackers on their way out if they had any bug juice they would share. Finally, one guy had some extra repellent wipes that we offered to pay good money for. He said take them; he wouldn't need them. I can't imagine how many welts I would have had if we hadn't applied some chemicals.

Another guy coming out was hiking with his Great Dane. All four paws were wrapped with what looked like human socks and the dog was limping. Later we saw a volunteer from and the chief of Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department lifting the dog into a pickup to truck it out.

The start, and therefore end, of the trail is super rocky.

It’s the worst part of the hike because when you are tired coming down, it’s so necessary to keep paying attention.

Going up, though, the scenery is stunning. This is when you want your eyes focused ahead or even up higher when possible. (Except when climbing all those steps.) Desolation was designated a wilderness area in 1969. This means it will be protected to keep it essentially the way it was when first discovered.

Groups of pine cones in the treetops look like small bunches of bananas.



Wilderness surrounds Sue Wood, Kae Reed and Cleo Reed.

Indian paintbrush, yarrow and thistles are in bloom.

At times if feels like we are in a bowl of granite. It amazes us how in short order we are immersed in wilderness.

As we keep going the elevation starts to affect mom. The other time she felt like this she was in the Alps skiing between Switzerland and Italy. Altitude sickness was setting in. She was feeling lightheaded. We stop. Drink water. Eat. And we head back. Still, we did 7.5 miles on this trek.

Had we kept going, we would have ascended Mount Tallac. This is the route the Forest Service suggests for seniors (my mom

is 78) and those with bad knees. Still, hiking poles can be a good idea.

Plenty of lakes are off this route, too – Aloha, Susie and Gilmore to name a few.

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Notes:

Trailheads in Desolation Wilderness:

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit:

• Echo Lakes

• Glen Alpine

• Mount Tallac

• Bayview

• Eagle Falls

• Meeks Bay

Eldorado National Forest:

• Loon Lake

• Buck Island

• Van Vleck

• Rockbound

• Twin Lakes

• Lyons

• Pyramid Creek (Twin Bridges)

• Ralston

• Echo.

Getting to the Glen Alpine trailhead:

From South Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north. Turn left on Fallen Leaf Lake Road. Follow the road around the lake, the store will be on your right, keep going, stay to the left when you have a choice to go right toward Stanford Camp. You will run into a parking area. If fills up fast on weekends, so arrive early.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Buddy

Buddy is a 1-year-old Rottweiler who just arrived at the shelter along with 10 other dogs from overcrowded shelters in Reno and the Central Valley.

He is nice boy who gets along well with other dogs. With proper food he will put on the appropriate 15-plus pounds

better suited to his frame. He is also quite smart, and his new family should be familiar with Rottweiler characteristics and be prepared to take him to training classes.

Buddy 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

Editorial: Climate change needs to be part of water policy

Publisher's note: ***This editorial is from the Aug. 3, 2013, Sacramento Bee.***

The scene at Folsom Lake isn't pretty, and it's sure to become far uglier if Mother Nature doesn't save the state with a wet winter.

Barring any early storms, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation expects the lake to fall to one-fourth its capacity, or 241,000 acre-feet, by December. With another dry winter, the lake could drop to what is known as "dead pool" – too low for local water agencies to procure water from it.

More than half a million people in the region depend on Folsom Lake for water, and cold water supplies in the reservoir are crucial for fish downstream, including imperiled steelhead and salmon. The lower the lake drops, the more the anxiety meter rises — alarm that threatens to turn into a serious water battle between local water agencies, the Bureau of Reclamation and the state Department of Water Resources.

Read the whole story