Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• League to Save Lake Tahoe's office in South Lake Tahoe has a demonstration garden where people can take a self-guided tour to learn about Tahoe native plants.

• South Lake Tahoe's STAR Teen Camp Overnight Camping & Hiking is July 29-31. Cost is $150. For info, email Jen Menzel at jmenzel@cityofslt.us.

• The Tahoe Grizzlies Bantam hockey team was at the Capitol recently to receive certificates congratulating the players for winning the state championship.

• What is daily news in Lake Tahoe worth to you? Let *Lake Tahoe News* know by filling out this paid subscriber form.

• The Lake Tahoe Outreach Collaborative is conducting a survey to find out what the public thinks are the most important things people can do to help protect Lake Tahoe. The survey results will be used to inform the creation of a new Environmental Stewardship Messaging campaign for the Tahoe region. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete and can be found online.

Tahoe is all about the

outdoors – including eating

By Susan Wood

If Belgium can allow France to claim its fries, then maybe Spain will surrender its honorary al fresco dining niche to the United States – if only for a day.

After all, it's the Fourth of July – America's signature holiday that marks a summer fun of eating, drinking, schmoozing, relaxing and taking in one's outdoor surroundings.

Al fresco is the Spanish derivative of "outside at a fresh temperature." It's a type of dining that's popular in the summer and is designed to promote pedestrian activity. Think Paris, then transport yourself.



Lake Tahoe reflected in the windows of Lone Eagle Grill in Incline. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Flanked by the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the Lake Tahoe region has no shortage of such places to take your dining party outdoors. The options on each shore range from the very childlike and biker babe-like to beach party-ish and elegant settings steps from a fine dining restaurant.

Some places scream tourist. Others are known as local hangouts. Several mix them up.

A few offer mountain scenery. Many provide lake views.

High marks go to the **Lone Eagle Bar and Grill** in Incline Village. Its patio seating, albeit limited, provides the epitome of relaxation outside its indoor bar and restaurant. Cushy, padded seating on the wooden chairs and chaise lounges let you settle in next to the beach. Don’t be surprised to see chairs set up for a wedding on the shoreline. Order a concoction from its creative cocktail list and the mushroom pizza off the appetizer menu.

Music that’s not overbearing is piped in to add to the ambiance. Watch the boats go by as the sun sets across the wide swath of lake. If you find you’re just not close enough, there’s always the pier bar where a patron may sit inches from the water.

“I feel like I’m on the water,” one woman said, enjoying the lakefront view with her friend.

Even the employees like being there.

“This is definitely the best job for the view,” bartender Shane said.

Looking west, over the water

Few places can lay claim to being at a bar so close to Lake Tahoe. One of my past favorites that made me a no show twice was the **West Shore Café** in Homewood across from the ski resort. First, it wasn’t open in early June, then it was closed for a wedding last Saturday. Their loss.



Chamber’s Landing

Chamber’s Landing may be an alternative for some, but not for those seeking more of a local connection to Tahoe. The pier bar seems all about the tourist – without the service. Get your own so-so drink that tries to be a knock-off of the Rum Runner of the Beacon fame.

The Beacon near Camp Richardson on the South Shore is the proverbial beach-bar-party scene on hot summer weekends. Live bands crank out the rock ‘n’ roll outside where you can sink your toes in the sand and people watch for hours. Expect lots of skin. The seating is closely guarded by security on busy days, but the staff is



Beacon at Camp Rich

friendly about their jobs. No dogs and no taking your drinks out of the restaurant domain.

South Lake Tahoe’s version of al fresco on a pier has made a

painful transformation from the late Blue Water Bistro. **The Boathouse** says cheap all over it the minute one arrives and leaves on what looks like an oil pan for a parking lot. The picnic tables are funky, the signs are nonexistent, the food is incredibly limited and the service is remarkably slow, which is too bad. (I will always love walking on that pier.)

Down Highway 50, the **Riva Grill** at the Ski Run Marina is set back from the shoreline but gives the diner a sense of being there. The seating is a bit crammed outside, but maybe after a few Wet Woodys it's not as noticeable. (Here's a hint: Either sit high on the wooden bench and not in the cheap plastic chairs in the aisle or sit inside next to the large picture windows.)

Another marina boasts a popular place in the Tahoe Keys. The **Fresh Ketch** may also leave a "cheap" feel with its plastic furniture on the grass outside its superb indoor bar setting, but it gets major points for providing a two-hour courtesy for boat-in dining to kayakers and canoers. The staff is friendly and the drinks are good. Diners will get a kick out of reading the boat butts with cutesy names.



Brooks Bar

Tied with Lone Eagle for the best lakeview experience is by far **Brooks Bar** at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. The best mojitos here meet the best lake setting with the golf course on one side and the lake on the other. The lapping waves beckon you

to the beach. The golf course greens call for a roll in the grass. If it’s nippy or if you just want ambiance on the patio, belly up to the fire pit and ask for a heater lamp. The staff would be happy to accommodate.

A close second to the other two is **Sunnyside** – which lives up to its name. It’s almost as if the seating is tiered to accommodate as many people as possible trying to secure a 180-degree view of Lake Tahoe. There’s nothing like basking in the sun on the patio steps away from the outside bar with the beach close by. Brenda said she’s transported to Hawaii or Arizona at Sunnyside.

The wooden furniture is more upscale than most. The drinks are superb and appetizers are good. A few rooms for rent upstairs beg for a West Shore stay.



Sunnyside

It’s so comfortable on what’s touted as “Tahoe’s largest outdoor deck” that dining alone on the long counter is more than acceptable.

Take me to the river

Tahoe City can stake claim to a bar and restaurant with history and a lot going for it. The **Bridgetender** situated along the Truckee River near Fanny Bridge offers an ideal setting for R&R, especially after partaking in the various recreational activities this lake town encourages.

When I say wooden furniture, I mean furniture that appears to be carved out of a log from a fallen Jeffery pine. The bar in the middle of the tables has Tahoe written all over it. The historic place has an ambiance. If it's not enough to hear the river noises, a fountain over the small pond up front is quite soothing. The staff brings its "A" game.

The **River Ranch** has also been a Tahoe summer favorite with its sit-next-to-river patio amid the trees – but a wedding party got there first.

And this is Tahoe

There's no way to dismiss the places that represent the mountain scene of Lake Tahoe and beyond.

One of the favorites is a short drive to Meyers. The al fresco experience at the **Getaway Café** banks a view of Cowboy Rock and Freel Peak while sitting amongst the flowers planted with love and care. There are tables for two and four and six. Umbrellas are out to provide adequate shade, but one can thoroughly enjoy baking in the sun. The pine trees surrounding the place say Tahoe. The straw grass placed on the lawn says rural. (Note: the food is always good, and it's far enough off Highway 50 to mask the noise.)



Sue at Sorensen's

Turn left on Highway 89 from the Getaway, and you can truly

get away to **Sorensen's Resort**. An absolute favorite, the aspens exemplify the Tahoe outdoor dining experience. It's as if the trees are cradling you when sitting on the patio. Between the chirping birds and quaking aspen leaves in the breeze, diners will feel as though they've stepped into a spa.

What's the best seating there? Nestle into the high-backed wooden chairs, put your feet on the footstools and set up a mini table setting between the chairs. Don't even think of leaving without ordering the berry cobbler. Try it with a Sprite or a Pinot Grigio, depending on your mood, and you may be parked there for hours as the leaf peepers or bikers come and go.

Going urban

Brothers bar maintains a long reputation for attracting a biker crowd, and for good reason. It's fun, the bartender is on top of his business and the outdoor patio gets the full exposure of sun along Highway 89 north of the Y in South Lake Tahoe.

The picnic tables seem appropriate for a fun-and-games kind of place. If the horseshoe tournaments don't bring you in, perhaps the large screen television on the patio for Monday Night Football may give you a change in scene from a living room.

There's a fire pit for chilly evenings. But it's the outdoor bar for major parties that says al fresco summer dining.

Across the highway on restaurant row, the **Rockwater** has a few options for al fresco dining. The grassy area can accommodate large parties in an open setting. The deck setting next to the outdoor bar is nice for some shade or to sit under the mounted heaters, depending on the temperatures outside. Fun activities like karaoke Wednesday nights round out the experience, and it's good to know one can just sit outside and watch sports on the outdoor televisions.

It gives it a sports bar feel. But with that, the bar could stand to be a little less loud. The music blasts. At least it’s difficult to hear the traffic. (Note: the service is notoriously slow, so don’t be in a hurry.)

For more on roadside dining, hit the **Coyote Grill** at Round Hill, where wine and appetizers beckon and dogs are welcome. Sure, you’re practically sitting in the parking lot. But according to Amy: “Tahoe’s so nice, the views are even good in a parking lot.”

Wire chairs and tables are probably easy to clean. The food and service are adequate.

The best restaurant service and arguably food at the lake sits halfway up Ski Run Boulevard at the Blue Angel Café.

This is an eatery that paints a creative menu like it’s fine art. The café is planning to put out more tables and planted new sod next to the planter boxes to satisfy its loyal clientele’s thirst for outdoor dining. Bike racks out front make it obvious this restaurant knows its patrons better than most.

Also new to the whole Al fresco scene is **Scusa**, the Italian restaurant at the end of Sierra Boulevard right on Highway 50. Upon a stormy night, I peeked out to its new setting to find a cozy spot out back with crushed rock at its base, iron tables and chairs, a fountain flowing, heat lamps ready and a high fence to seal off the area.

Whether in or out, the food and wine with an elegant, adult-like setting is always worth going for.

For the casual flair

Want to feel like a kid again? Since everyone screams for ice cream at Lake Tahoe in the short summer season, the places that offer it and provide it will do much business in those

months.



Sno-Flake

It’s hot. Our first thought is a soft serve cone from the **Sno-Flake Drive-In**, a mainstay in urban South Lake Tahoe. But of course, we’re not alone with our thought. The few picnic tables outside fill up fast. So as an alternative to consume this feast (even in a small size), Kae and I sat with our legs dangling off benches surrounding flower plants right alongside Modesto Avenue.

Looking across to the *Tahoe Tribune* building brought back many memories, some even good.

The Al Tahoe neighborhood brings out many people on their bikes. Sno-Flake might want to add racks for these patrons.

Cycling on the North Shore to Squaw Village easily made Kae, Roni, Brenda and me hungry for a smoothie. The **Mountain Nectar** touts about a dozen different flavors of smoothies and some milkshakes that had me taking note why I wanted to return some day.

If you go in the morning, sitting in front of the fire pit in the slanted wooden chairs outside the **Fireside Café** is wide open to the first takers.

It wouldn’t be summer without real ice cream on the South

Shore at the **Camp Richardson Ice Cream Parlor**. Kae decided a lunch break last week should involve some sugar. Seven picnic tables are inviting to sit while she eats the huge scoop. Plenty of shade is provided by the tall pines. While the shop is right on Highway 89, the tables are back far enough for it not to be annoying.

Beyond the Lake Tahoe area

• The best in Pacific coast outdoor seating may be found at the **Inn at Spanish Bay**. You can't go wrong with Carmel Bay in full view.

• While in Scottsdale, a diner can get a show from the **Cantina Laredo** patio as the waiter whips up the guacamole, right at the table.

• The show continues at the **Troon North Golf Course Clubhouse**, where a family of javelinas entertains diners at the sunset hours.

• While in St. Helena, check out the patio dining at **Tra Vigne** for brunch – in particular on Mother's Day. The Tuscan Courtyard lives up to its name, where the trees provide shade without clunky umbrellas.

• **SolBar** restaurant in Calistoga allows dogs, which was quite annoying at a fine dining restaurant.

• Like kids? Bring yours to **Skipolini's Pizza's** patio in Clayton, where Kae grew up, or in Walnut Creek. The pizza itself would prompt one to drive 10 miles out of the way to have one.

Kathryn Reed contributed to this article.

DCSD implementing all-day kindergarten

Douglas County School District will provide full-day kindergarten at all seven of its elementary schools for the 2013-14 school year.

Full-day kindergarten was implemented last year for students in the Carson Valley attending Jacks Valley, Scarselli and CC Meneley.

Additional funds have been identified to now include students at the district's remaining four sites: Zephyr Cove, Pinon Hills, Gardnerville and Minden elementary schools. Parents at these four schools will be receiving letters from their principals.

The partial implementation began last year for Douglas County when a competitive federal grant was awarded to DCSD to assist elementary schools with the most at-risk populations.

The state's additional funding was not sufficient to make full-day kindergarten a reality for every elementary school in Nevada but it is a significant step forward in the overall goal. The district hopes that by the end of the 2015 legislative session, the FDK funding will be secure for Douglas County so that the patch-working of grants will no longer be needed.

Families who are new to the area or who have not yet completed their registration for kindergarten may contact their neighborhood school when offices reopen on or about Aug. 5th to do their paperwork at that time. The first day of school is Aug. 19.

Letter: Actions speak louder than beliefs

To the community,

“Actions speak louder than Beliefs.” While I was out running I noticed in my head that the statement had the first two letters of the alphabet.

After my run I decided to to see if I could use the alphabet to come up with some kind of statement. This is what I came up with.

Actions speak louder than

Beliefs and define

Character.

Deciding what you do

Everyday will determine

Fulfillment.

Good thoughts

Help

Individuals

Join together in

Kinsman

Like

Movements.

Narrow

Opinions

Punish everyone

Quietly.

Respect everyone who deserves it and

Sedate the bad

Thoughts.

Understand

Victory is not just found in

Winning but also enlightenment. Feel free to

Xerox this and pass it on if you wish.

You must be comfortable in yourself.

Zooweemama!

John Spinola, South Lake Tahoe

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2 holiday weekend running events in Tahoe

Ready to run?

The Tahoe Firecracker Trail Trek is July 4 starting at 8am.

There will be a 5K run-walk and kids' race at Incline Middle School, 931 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village.

The race benefits the Incline High School boys and girls cross country teams. The Race is part of the Red White and Tahoe Blue activities.

With separate races for kids and adults, this event is for the entire family.

More info is online.

The Ponderosa Ridge Run is July 6 starting at 1am.

No preregistration necessary. A donation of $5 is being requested.

Runners will start at the Spooner Summit maintenance station near highways 50 and 28. Finish at Rim Trail parking lot off Kingsbury Grade.

This is a 9.5-mile trek across the mountain tops from Spooner Summit to Tahoe Rim Trail near Kingsbury Grade.

July 4 picnic costs about 6 bucks a person

By Jeannie Nuss, Huffington Post

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — How much does it cost to pack a picnic this Fourth of July? That'll be $6 per person.

That's according to the American Farm Bureau Federation, which launched an informal price survey this year looking at the cost of hot dogs, cheeseburgers and other Independence Day

fare.

A typical summertime picnic averages $57.20 for 10 people, or $5.72 per person, according to the group, which puts out a similar estimate for Thanksgiving.

“Five dollars a person for a special event cookout is affordable for most people,” said John Anderson, chief deputy economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation. “We certainly know that there are people who struggle with affording food and other necessities, but in general, we’re blessed with very affordable food in this country.”

Sixty volunteer shoppers in 22 states checked retail prices for summer picnic foods for the American Farm Bureau Federation’s survey.

The group puts together a similar annual informal price survey about Thanksgiving dinner fare. Last year, the group said a turkey dinner with all the trimmings would cost about $49.48 for 10, or just under $5 per person.

However, since this year marks the group’s first Fourth of July price survey, Anderson said the group doesn’t have concrete numbers to compare with the 2013 figures.

“We expect the general level of prices to go up around 2 percent a year,” Anderson said. “That’s kind of normal price inflation, and … I certainly think that we’re in the ballpark of those normal price changes over the past year.”

Aside from burgers and hot dogs, the farm group’s picnic menu includes pork spare ribs, potato salad, lemonade, baked beans, watermelon, corn chips, chocolate milk, ketchup and mustard.

That list doesn’t include beer, which some Americans are shelling out a bit more for this year.

“More people are trading up to premium, more expensive beer,” said John Davie, president and CEO of Boston-based

Consolidated Concepts, which works with thousands of food and restaurant outlets to help them save money on food and other supplies.

Davie also said the price of chicken breast has increased since this time last year.

Debra Graham agrees with that.

“It’s almost as cheap to buy steaks as to do chicken or burgers,” she said outside a Little Rock grocery store where she bought catfish for a Fourth of July fish fry.

But Graham, 52, said other prices seemed about as high as they usually are.

“If you want it, you’ve got to pay for it,” she said.

Tahoe basin under severe weather watch



Sprinkles were falling at Emerald Bay about 5pm July 3. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a flash flood

warning for eastern El Dorado and Placer counties until 8:45 tonight. This includes South Lake Tahoe, Tahoe City, and Squaw Valley and all of the communities in the basin on Highway 89.

Severe thunderstorm warnings have been issued for areas east of Reno, and both ends of Lake Tahoe. Quarter-size hail is possible

Authorities are warning people to not cross low-lying areas in a vehicle that have a foot or more of water.

Get to higher ground is the general rule.

Afternoon thunderstorms are expected to continue through Thursday. This could impact Fourth of July festivities.

The National Weather Service just began issuing mobile emergency message alerts through select phone carriers. For more info, go online.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Congressional bill all about Douglas County

By Karoun Demirjian, Las Vegas Sun

Douglas County's public lands issues now have a proposed federal solution, after Nevada Sens. Harry Reid and Dean Heller introduced a bill Tuesday to address everything from economic development to wilderness and sage grouse protection.

The bill, titled "The Douglas County Conservation Bill," would give the necessary permission for municipal and other entities

to obtain or purchase federal public lands and transfer “important cultural sites” to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

Read the rest of the story

DUI checkpoint in Douglas County on July 4

Several Northern Nevada law enforcement agencies will be teaming up and “Joining Forces” this Independence Day as an additional security measure in providing for a safe holiday weekend.

On Thursday afternoon and evening, police officers from the Reno and Sparks police departments, deputies from the Washoe and Lyon county sheriff’s offices, and troopers from the Nevada Highway Patrol will be conducting the administrative road block on Highway 50 in Douglas County. Motorists passing through the checkpoint will be briefly greeted by one of the law enforcement officers.

Those motorists who show signs of alcohol and/or drug use will be directed to the secondary screening area for further evaluation. Once at the secondary screening area, standardized field sobriety tests will be administered and those who fail these tests will be placed under arrest.

Gardening classes for Nevadans

Nevadans can learn to grow safe, fresh, organic produce at home and in school and community gardens without spending a lot of money.

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension will help show residents how during eight “Grow Your Own, Nevada!” gardening classes featuring “back-to-basics” best practices for producing bountiful harvests. Classes will be presented July 8-Aug. 26 from 2:30-4:30pm live in Reno and video-conferenced to extension offices throughout the state.

This summer session is focused on getting Nevadans of all ages away from sedentary lifestyles and outside into the garden. All students are welcome.

For those attending the classes in Reno, the July 8 class is free; each additional class is $15; or participants can preregister to take all eight classes for a flat fee of $50. Local K-12 teachers may attend for free with proper identification.

To register, fill out the online form.