1 person hospitalized, 3 arrested in Kings Beach shooting

Three Kings Beach men are in custody following what the shooter says was an accident.

A 19-year-old man from Sacramento, whose name has not been released, was shot in the face about 1:55pm May 28 in the 8600 block of North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach. He was driven to a local hospital by a friend before being airlifted to Renown Medical Center in Reno. His condition is unknown.

Arrested were: Brandon Lamont Fuller, 19, of Kings Beach on charges of negligent discharge of a firearm, an enhancement for great bodily injury, and conspiracy; Aydan Ryker Hamilton, 19, of Kings Beach on charges of evidence tampering and conspiracy; and Kyle Andrew Faulkner, 22, of Kings Beach for evidence tampering and conspiracy.

Officers said Fuller cooperated with detectives and stating the shooting was accidental. Two firearms were confiscated.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Expect road delays during Sunday's bike ride

The 23rd annual America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride is June 1 starting at MontBleu casino in Stateline.

Cyclists will be riding clockwise around the lake.

Highway 89 will have delays. Vehicles will be banned from going north between 6:30 and 8:30am. The southbound lane will remain open at all times.

For more info, go online.

Learn about wildflowers at Washoe Meadows

California Native Plant Society member Lisa Berry will lead a wildflower walk through Washoe Meadows State Park on June 1 from 10am-1pm.

Berry is a UNR graduate with interests in hiking, skiing, rock climbing and wildflowers. She teaches English and wildflower classes at Lake Tahoe Community College.

To join the hike, RSVP to Lynne at LCPaulson@comcast.net or Krissi at 530.577.4335. They will provide location and more details.

As Earth warms, West Nile spreads

By Brittany Patterson, Atlantic

The day that everything changed was a broiling Thursday in

July—95 degrees, the kind of dry heat that Sacramento Valley residents are used to. If you have to work outside, you do it before noon, swathed in long sleeves and pants to keep the sun at bay and the mosquitoes from eating you alive.

On this day, however, my grandmother, an active and spritely woman even at 80, never made it outside to the garden. She mentioned at breakfast that she wasn't feeling well, and my grandfather suggested that she take a nap in the sunroom. When he finally woke her up at 4pm, she still felt ill and feverish. The nearest emergency room is more than an hour's drive from their 20-acre farm in rural northern California, but they decided to make the trip. The doctors performed a CAT scan, gave my grandmother some Tylenol, and sent her home.

When my grandparents finally got back at around 11pm, my grandfather tried to convince my grandmother to eat something; she said that she could manage a piece of toast. A few days later he found the toast, one bite taken out of it, abandoned in the microwave.

Although it may be possible to disregard the slow changes happening within our climate, it's less easy to ignore the effects of a disease ravaging a family.

While getting ready for bed, my grandmother went into the bathroom and stood in the dark for 10 minutes. "I asked her what she was doing, and she said she was washing her teeth," my grandfather recalls. He coaxed her out, and they climbed into bed.

It was around 4am when the tumult began. "I'm falling out of bed!" my grandmother screamed. Half asleep, my grandfather tried to push her back in, but when he touched her, she shrieked and began sobbing. He rushed down the hallway, phoned the hospital, and was told to call 911. By the time that he could get back to the bedroom, my grandmother was slumped on the floor, her head against the bedside table, babbling

incoherently. The paramedics arrived within 15 minutes.

“I wasn’t thinking of it being anything,” my grandfather says now. “I thought it was something she would get treated for and get better.”

My grandmother — or Oma, as we call her, the German word for grandmother — had always been a picture of perfect health, a trait that she and Opa, my grandfather, attributed to decades spent farming organic produce and tending to their land. But as Oma spent the next 32 days in the hospital and then three weeks in a rehabilitation facility, my family came to realize that the first night of terror was just the beginning. Despite the best efforts of her doctors, Oma did not get better.

* * *

On Aug. 23, 1999, an infectious disease doctor in northern Queens reported two patients with encephalitis—swelling of the brain—to the New York City Department of Health, according to a Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) report from October 1999. Upon investigation, the health department identified six patients with identical diagnoses who lived in the same vicinity.

In what appeared to be an unrelated development, crows were being found dead all over New York state that summer. It was as if they were dropping from the sky. In early September, a cormorant, two captive-bred Chilean flamingos, and an Asian pheasant died at the Bronx Zoo. The unexplained deaths filled the papers with foreboding stories. It was thought that mosquitoes were spreading some kind of virus, but which one, and whether it could spread to humans, was unknown.

The local mosquito vector control agency jumped into action and began spraying pesticides. About 300,000 cans of DEET-based mosquito repellent and 750,000 pamphlets with information about personal protection against mosquito bites were distributed to NYC residents, according to the same CDC

report.

On Sept. 20, samples from the deceased birds at the Bronx Zoo were tested and sent to the CDC. DNA sequencing revealed a viral strain, closely related to West Nile virus found in other parts of the world, but never before found in the Western Hemisphere. Around the same time, the CDC, while performing tests on a human brain specimen from an encephalitis case, discovered a strain of West Nile virus identical to the one found in the bird. Over the course of the next few months, the same match between the viruses in the birds and those in humans was found dozens of times. A previously undetected strain of West Nile virus, it seemed, was now in the United States.

Like all viruses, West Nile requires a host to survive and reproduce—in this case, birds. Like most arboviruses (diseases transmitted by blood-feeding insects), it is transmitted by mosquitoes. West Nile is also a neurotropic virus, which means that, in some cases, it can infect the brain.

“When West Nile first showed up, it was big news,” says Stephen Ostroff, formerly the associate director for epidemiologic science at the National Center for Infectious Diseases, which is part of the CDC. Hundreds of newspaper articles were published about the emerging disease, often with frightening headlines like “As Fears Rise About Virus, the Answers Are Elusive.”

Multiple local governments were forced by their health departments to spray pesticides from helicopters and trucks to reduce the adult mosquito population.

The answers were elusive in part because of controversy, which is still ongoing, about how best to stop the spread of the virus. Multiple local governments were forced by their health departments to spray pesticides from helicopters and trucks to reduce the adult mosquito population, according to a Journal

of Urban Health article from 2002 and the media struggled to compare the risks of pesticide spraying with the risks of the virus.

Just as feared, the problem quickly began to spread to other states. Ostroff was appointed point person for the investigation by the Department of Health and Human Services.

“As we watched it march across the country, in different years there would be different hotspots,” he says. “One year Louisiana, one year Chicago. It would reproduce all of the issues, concerns, and questions about control measures.”

In 2002, West Nile made it to California. By 2004, it had been found in every state in the contiguous United States, according to the American Society for Microbiology’s report on West Nile virus.

In a new climate change report, the National Climate Assessment, which was prepared by a large scientific panel with the oversight of the federal government, the authors write that climate is “one of the factors that influence the distribution of diseases borne by vectors, such as fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes, which spread pathogens that cause illness.”

They go on to write that outbreaks of this diseases are sensitive to local weather and human modifications to the landscape. There are a lot of different variables that influence outbreaks, but they conclude with this: “Enhanced vector surveillance and human disease tracking are needed to address these concerns.”

But after the march of West Nile across the country, our monetary investment in the disease petered out, due in part to the amorphous nature of the disease itself. Unlike the flu, which will arrive every year without fail, the severity of a West Nile outbreak varies hugely.

The authors write that “summers are longer and hotter, and extended periods of unusual heat last longer than any living American has ever experienced. Winters are generally shorter and warmer. Rain comes in heavier downpours.”

Although it will vary by region, these characteristics fomented by climate change, don’t bode well for West Nile outbreaks. And although it may be possible to disregard the slow changes happening within our climate, it’s less easy to ignore the effects of a disease ravaging a family.

Mortgage loans not impossible for self-employed

By Karen Mayfield

With so many entrepreneurs and start-up companies, a common question I hear is, “How do people who are self-employed get a mortgage?”

Mortgage lenders have different treatments for different types of income, whether it is an annual bonus, commissions, overtime pay, or income from self-employment, either full-time or as a secondary source of income.

Because your lender needs to verify that you have the ability to repay your mortgage, the income you use to qualify for a mortgage should be as stable and predictable as possible, and likely to continue for the next three years.

Bonuses, overtime, and self-employment income are not always considered stable and predictable. So lenders are usually especially careful when they factor income from those sources

into a loan application review.

Here are some tips for various sources of income:

Self-employment: First of all, you should be aware that lenders tend to require two years of verifiable self-employment history to approve a mortgage loan based on that income. If you don't have the two years, you may be required to wait until you have a two-year track record. You will likely be required to provide two years of tax returns and possibly a year-to-date profit-and-loss statement.

Be ready to provide the lender evidence of a net profit, with a current year-to-date profit-and-loss statement, as well as the most recent year's income tax returns for this self-employment activity.

Self-employed loan applicants face a bit of a challenge dilemma. Higher expenses offset income and lower your tax bill. But by lowering your net income, you may be reducing the income your lender will use for a mortgage approval. If you're looking to buy a home, consider balancing your tax strategy with your housing aspirations.

Overtime: If you are employed and want to use overtime pay as part of your income for a mortgage, your lender may use a 24-month average of your overtime pay and add that to your regular income.

Bonuses or commissions: Lenders typically use a 24-month average of your income from bonuses or commissions and add that to your regular salary or monthly income.

Business ownership: If you own 25 percent or more of any business entity, your lender may use a 24-month average of income, unless it is declining. If the entity's income is declining, lenders usually take the lowest annual amount and use that as your qualifying income.

Family business: If you work for your family's business, you will probably need to provide standard employment verification as well as evidence that you are not an owner of the business. Discuss the various options with your lender or tax accountant.

Borrowers generally want to use as much of their income as possible when applying for a mortgage, first to ensure the application is approved, and second to qualify for the loan amount needed to purchase the home they desire.

Karen Mayfield works for Bank of the West where she writes a finance blog.

Letter: Lodging officials help at Bread & Broth

To the community,

With the funding provided from the Vail Echo Grant program, Lake Tahoe Lodging Company, Vail Resorts' management company at Heavenly, was the Adopt A Day of Nourishment sponsor for Bread & Broth's dinner May 19.

The dinner at St. Theresa Church's Grace Hall served 90 guests with the help of Barbara Knapp, senior accounting assistant; Phylise Walker, assistant reservations manager; and brokers Greta and Mike Hambsch. These volunteers from Lake Tahoe Lodging Company arrived ready to cheerfully and graciously assist with the dinner event.

Taking a break from serving, Walker said, "This is such a great community service. It is wonderful to work with this

dedicated group of people and it’s an honor to share a meal with our neighbors in need.”

For over 24 years, the working poor, families in need, people on fixed income as well those living outdoors in the our South Shore community have been enjoying the nutritious meals and loving care provided at each of B&B’s Monday dinners.

B&B would like to thank Vail Echo Grant Program and the helpful Lake Tahoe Lodging Company volunteers for their sponsorship and support of B&B’s goal of providing meals to those in need.

In addition to volunteering their time, our generous sponsor volunteers also brought fresh fruit and containers for distribution at the dinner.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Truckee man faces murder charge in mom’s death

A Truckee man is in custody accused of cruelty to elders with great bodily injury and second degree murder in the death of his mother.

Nellie Mulligan, 88, was found deceased the evening of May 27 in the apartment she shared with her son on Martis Valley Road in Truckee. An autopsy is pending.

David Jenkins, 61, was taken into custody.

“Ms. Mulligan’s physical state and living conditions were poor and suggested that there had been some level of neglect. There was no obvious cause of death and the level of neglect was suspected to be a factor,” Truckee police officers said in a press release.

Anyone with information is asked to call 530.550.2334. Please refer all press inquiries to Captain Rob Leftwich.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Eating invasive species may help eliminate them



Tahoe Lobster Co. was the first to harvest invasive crawfish from Lake Tahoe . Photo/LTN file

By Ramit Plushnick-Masti, Washington Post

HOUSTON – It seems like a simple proposition: American lakes, rivers and offshore waters are filling up with destructive fish and crustaceans originally from other parts of the world, and many of them are potential sources of food.

So why not control these invasive populations by getting people to eat them?

The idea gained momentum recently when lionfish, which invaded the Gulf of Mexico, were successfully marketed to restaurants and appear to be in decline.

But businesses and scientists have struggled to repeat this apparent triumph with other species. Some, such as Asian carp, are not appetizing to Americans. Others, such as feral hogs, reproduce too quickly for the strategy to make a dent. And then there's the question of whether turning the animals into sought-after cuisine undermines the larger goal of eliminating them.

"Eating invasive species is not a silver bullet," said Laura Huffman, the Nature Conservancy's director in Texas. But it can still be "a way to get people engaged in the topic and in the solution."

Read the whole story

Abysmal numbers for Stateline casinos

Lake Tahoe was a bit of a ghost town in April and it was even worse in the casinos.

Stateline's casino revenues dropped 42.3 percent last month compared to 2013. This was the largest drop in the state.

The state Gaming Control Board today said revenues throughout the state fell less than 1 percent (0.27 percent) to $852 million, compared to $854.3 million in 2013. State numbers

have fallen three out of the first four months of the year.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• South Lake Tahoe is having a Neighborhood Service Team meeting June 10 from 6-7pm. It is designed to improve and preserve neighborhood vitality by fostering public participation and facilitating interaction between residents and city officials. Meet at the rec complex, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd. For more info, call 530.542.6093.

• Stacie Lyans is now executive director of the Tahoe City Downtown Association.

• Soroptimist International South Lake Tahoe is in talks with the California Tahoe Conservancy to help fund the completion of the Lakeview Commons bike trail that would extend to the Alta Mira building that the state agency just bought.

• Tahoe Adventure Company puts on guided sunset kayak tours every Friday. Cost is $60. For more info, call 530.913.9212.

• TOCCATA—Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus concert on June 22 at 2pm at St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe will include works by Vivaldi, Sowerby, and J.S. Bach. Featured soloists are flutists Josue Casillas and Carmella Cao and organist David Brock. Tickets are $25 for adults; call 775.313.9697.