Varied cycling events part of Adventure Sports Week

The 2nd annual Adventure Sports Week Tahoe (June 15-24) includes a series of mountain biking events.

The Lake Tahoe Mountain Bike Race is June 16. It kicks off at 8am and has a 4- and 8-hour race that participants can engage in solo or on a team of two, three or four people. The Tahoe City course is approximately 12 miles and is a mix of single track and fire roads. It is a fast and smooth course with few technical sections. The rider with the most laps wins. Fast laps are estimated to take approximately 51 minutes.

Triathlon competitions all take place June 23 with three races for competitors to choose from. XTERRA Tahoe City, one of the events that make up the XTERRA U.S. Point Series, has outdoor enthusiasts swimming two 750-meter laps in Lake Tahoe with a 50-meter beach run, mountain biking 22 miles and trail running five miles throughout the North Lake Tahoe region.

The XTERRA Tahoe City Sprint offers shorter distances with one 750-meter swim, 13-mile mountain bike ride and a three-mile trail run. The XTERRA Tahoe City Duathlon is a two-mile run, 22-mile ride, followed up by a 6-mile run.

Tahoe Mountain Guides will offer a free Local’s Mountain Bike Tour June 20 at 5:30pm. Participants meet at Blue Agave in Tahoe City and will head up the Tahoe Rim Trail, which offers scenic views of Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River Canyon.

For more information about Adventure Sports Week Tahoe, go online.

Night out teaches the basics of car camping for families

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association and REI in Reno have developed a Family Camping 101 program to teach families the basics of car camping, including: camp cooking, pitching a tent and gear demonstrations.

There will be campfire activities and camping games for the whole family. S’mores, hot chocolate and coffee will be provided by the TRTA.

Family Camping 101 is also made possible by the support of Galilee Episcopal Camp & Conference Center.

The camping trip is June 22 at 4pm to June 23 at 10am at Camp Galilee in Lake Tahoe.

The cost $20 per person; age 3 and under free.

Contact Tom at (775) 298.0238 or programs@tahoerimtrail.org with any questions or to sign up.

Lecture about aquatic invasive species

Jonelle Bright from the Tahoe Resource Conservation District

will give a lecture June 21 at 10:30am at the Tahoe Maritime Museum on aquatic invasive species.

She will talk about how they affect Lake Tahoe, what is being done to prevent spread of AIS, and the history of the boat inspection program.

The lecture in Homewood is free and open to members and non-members.

Minden firm awarded contract by USFS for air tanker

By Bill Gabbert, Wildfire Today

Following the president's signing June 13 of the bill that waived the 30-day notification period for informing Congress about new air tanker contracts, the U.S. Forest Service announced it has awarded new exclusive use contracts for seven additional air tankers.

Four companies will provide three next generation air tankers in 2012 and four in 2013:



Tanker 40, a BAe-146, during tests. Photo/Tronos

Minden Air Corporation will provide one BAe-146 in 2012 and 1 BAe-146 in 2013;

Neptune Aviation Services, Inc. will provide one BAe-146s in 2012;

Aero Air, LLC will provide two MD87s in 2013; and

Aero Flite, Inc. of Kingman, Arizona will provide one Avro RJ85 in 2013.

The AVRO RJ85 is a variant of the 3,000-gallon BAe-146 with more efficient jet engines, produced between 1993 and 2002.

The MD-87 is a variant of the MD-80, a twin-engine jet, and as an airliner carried 114 to 139 passengers. It was produced from 1987 to 1992 and cruises at about 500 mph, similar to the BAe-146. There are estimates that the MD-87 will carry 4,000 gallons of retardant, but that is not confirmed.

Neptune and Minden previously held the only exclusive use contracts this year for large air tankers. Neptune now has seven P2Vs and one BAe-146 under contract, and Minden has two P2Vs, however one of Minden’s P2V’s was damaged June 3 when the the landing gear failed to fully extend while landing. On the same day, two pilots were killed when one of Neptune’s P2Vs crashed in Utah. Neptune’s Tanker 40, the only BAe-146 presently working as an air tanker, began service in the fall of 2011 and is still under interim approval from the Interagency Air Tanker Board.

Read the whole story

10-hour standoff at South Tahoe hotel ends peacefully

An Auburn woman was taken into custody Thursday morning by South Lake Tahoe police officers after a 10-hour standoff.

Jennifer Lynn Trezona had barricaded herself in a room at the Pine Cone Acre Motel on Emerald Bay Road in South Lake Tahoe the night before.



Jennifer Lynn Trezona

Police throughout the region on June 13 had received notice from Auburn officers that the 49-year-old woman was suicidal and to be on the look out for her. Her vehicle was found in the South Lake Tahoe hotel parking lot Wednesday at 6:30pm.

“They discovered what room Trezona was in and went to check her welfare. When the officers attempted contact, Trezona brandished a handgun at them and then immediately barricaded herself inside the motel room,” South Tahoe police Lt. Brian Williams said in a press release.

Crisis negotiators were brought in.

El Dorado and Douglas county provided sheriff’s deputies to help at various times during the standoff.

Trezona eventually surrendered at 5am June 14.

She was booked on felony charges of brandishing a weapon at a peace officer.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

K’s Kitchen: Finding a new use for radishes

By Kathryn Reed

Cooked radishes?

Yes.



Really?

Yes.

OK.

I decided to take Joy’s suggestion. After all, she had seen it done on the Food Network, so it must be a good idea.

To me, radishes are to eat as part of a relish tray or in a salad. It had never crossed my mind to cook them.

Joy said to roast them. She said the beets she was giving me from her community supported agriculture (CSA) box would be good roasted, too. I had never cooked a beet. Never used them in anything.

I didn’t bother to tell Sue I had no idea if what was going to come out of the oven was going to be good or if we might need to order pizza. Not too long into the process the house started smelling fabulous. My confidence was rising.

Now I’m looking forward to leftovers.

Everything but the olive oil in this dish came either from the CSA box or the farmers’ market. However, oil is sold at the South Lake Tahoe Tuesday market.

Cooking the radishes made them much less pungent. I would try them on the barbecue and maybe in other ways, too, in the future.

All the veggies were chopped in big chunks. The amount you need depends on how many people you are serving. I had about a handful of chopped basil.

Roasted Seasonal Veggies

Radishes

Beets

Zucchini

Crookneck squash

Spring garlic, bulb

Basil, rough chop

Olive oil

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Cut vegetables into large chunks – larger than bite size. Separate garlic bulb into cloves.

Put veggies into 9 x 13 glass dish. Sprinkle the garlic cloves throughout the dish. Evenly distribute basil on veggies. Pour

olive oil over veggies. (A heavy drizzle.) Stir all together.

Cook in oven for between 30 and 40 minutes. (Test veggies as you go along because depending on what you use, some will take longer than others.)

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor is putting on “The Gentlemen of Verona” July 13-Aug. 26.

• Squaw Valley Fine Arts & Crafts Festival is June 30 and July 1, 11am-5pm at the village.

• Mountain Lake Cleaning, which just opened, is a family owned business that focuses on providing environmentally safe cleaning service to residential and commercial properties in Incline Village and other parts of North Lake Tahoe.

• James Grant is now director of mountain operations at Heavenly Mountain Resort.

• Squaw Valley’s 11th annual Soaring Kites and Music Festival is July 7, noon-5pm.

Opinion: Brown’s tax plan on shaky ground

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

The state budget that the Legislature will enact this week will assume that half of its deficit will be covered by voter approval of new income and sales taxes next November.

However, it’s looking steadily less like a reasonable assumption and increasingly like just another in a long string of budget gimmicks, not unlike last year’s bogus assumption that the tax system would generate an extra $4 billion.

Indeed, one could say that Gov. Jerry Brown and fellow Democrats are doubling down on miracle money, from last year’s $4 billion to this year’s $8.5 billion.

History does not favor new state taxes. Voters have very rarely approved any new levies and even more rarely any new taxes that they would pay themselves.

Brown tries to get around that reluctance by emphasizing that most of the new taxes would be paid by those at the upper end of the income scale.

But one portion, a quarter-cent sales tax increase, would be paid by everyone. Polling indicates that as small as it is, the sales tax hike is a tough sell in a moribund economy.

Last week, a new Field Poll found that just 52 percent of registered voters favor Brown’s tax plan.

Read the whole story

LTUSD budget leaves 1% in reserves

By Kathryn Reed

Lake Tahoe Unified School District is essentially creating parallel budgets because of items on the November ballot that would affect the bottom line. But the reality is the board will be asked at its June 26 meeting to approve just one budget for the 2012-13 school year.

CFO Deb Yates on June 12 presented the board with the most up-to-date numbers, though they seem to change several times within a week based on projections coming from Sacramento.

The state's budget deadline is June 15. The deficit currently sits at $15.7 billion. A capital insider told *Lake Tahoe News* on June 13 it's likely Republicans won't be given a copy of the budget before a vote it taken and that deliberations will start late in the day Friday to make it look like lawmakers were working all day and into the night on it.

LTUSD is not alone as it struggles to figure out what its ledger should look like when the state keeps changing its numbers. If money matters were still calculated on paper with pencil, there would be a hole from all the eraser marks. That in turn would be a perfect metaphor for the hole the state is creating for schools, cities and counties.

If Gov. Jerry Brown's tax plan doesn't work in November, LTUSD will be out $1.6 million.

The state has added 15 days to the five already allowed that districts may cut the school year by. If the November ballot measure fails, LTUSD could be looking at cutting a dozen

school days for 2012-13 to close its budget gap.

LTUSD is spending down its reserve, keeping about 1 percent – the minimum allowed. This compares to the state average of a 16 percent reserve.

The district is also wondering where the $80,000 in redevelopment money it's supposed to receive from the city's successor agency is. Yates said she sent a letter last week inquiring about it.

Another potential problem for the district is average daily attendance numbers are at 3,592 when the estimate was 3,652. If this holds true, it could mean $175,000 less from the state. However, enrollment is steady. But how the state calculates what it pays per student is how many show up on average, not how many are enrolled.

The LTUSD board will meet June 26 at 6pm to approve the final 2012-13 budget to meet its deadline even if the state doesn't meet its requirements.

In other action:

• The district this year is not automatically promoting students. South Tahoe Middle School started monitoring 115 at-risk students. Of those, 12 seventh-graders will be retained and nine eight-graders.

Fly fishing is all about the bugs and an accurate cast

By Kathryn Reed

The morning of my lesson there is a Tweet from Tahoe Fly Fishing: “Rainbow, Brown, Brook or Cutthroat.” At least I know these are all kinds of trout. The problem is I think one fish looks like the next. Will it matter?

The day after my lesson the Tweet is: “Dry fly time on the West Carson and the Truckee.”

Are they testing me? Should I respond? Can I explain what that sentence means to someone who doesn’t fly fish?



Martin Iyoyo shows off the brown trout before releasing it into the East Walker River near Bridgeport. It was hooked on a size 18 green caddis pupa. Photo/Brendan Burnside

Better get Brendan Burnside to do the talking. The guide for Tahoe Fly Fishing put me through the South Lake Tahoe outfitter’s introductory course this week.

I don’t fish, but I have fished – just never with a fly. Going with dad meant putting the worm on the hook, waiting for hours and wondering why people did this hour after hour.

Something about the beauty of fly fishing has captivated me for years; always wanting to know more about this sport. Watching people cast can be mesmerizing – it looks like art, a dance of sorts. That arc of the line. Fish jumping through the air. The idyllic scenery.

Or maybe it’s like Burnside said, the movie “A River Runs Through It” is still getting people interested in fly fishing. Or maybe Brad Pitt has something to do with the allure. I’m not sure how long I’ve wanted to cast a line – maybe 20 years.

It’s been 20 years since that Robert Redford film came out. And just this week I cast my first line.



Plenty of bugs to choose from at Tahoe Fly Fishing. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Cast No. 1, was, um, not so great. My natural instinct was to want to stand sideways to the target as though I were throwing a ball or even serving a tennis ball.

Burnside squared me toward the target. Very awkward feeling. But he’s the boss, and considering this 36-year-old has been at this since he was a teenager, I decided I should listen.

He tells me guys tend to want to muscle the line to the fish, while women learn the finesse of the sport fairly quickly. Just a little pressure with that statement. In some ways it’s like golf where technique is more critical than the bicep bulge. It’s also about patience in order to be precise.

A loose grip is needed on the pole. I grab it like it’s a Western grip on a tennis racket.

Soon the end of the line is where the fish would be if there were fish.

See, in this introductory course it’s about getting the rookie to see if she likes the whole idea of the sport before going out to one of the multitude of watering holes in the area.

Then there’s the whole education part – from equipment to attire to flies.



Guide Brendan Burnside explains how to cast. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The latter is what can make or break a fly fishing experience.

“These fish are incredibly fast and smart,” Burnside explains. “If they know it’s not a real bug, they spit it out fast.”

Bugs – that’s what the pros call them. That’s because they look like the bugs the fish would eat in the wild. The size, color and shape are critical in that they mimic as close to possible real bugs.

“They all imitate something that lives in the Sierra. The bugs follow the color of the seasons,” Burnside says as he points to the oodles of “bugs” for fishermen to buy. “We are using green now because it’s still spring.”

Stonefly, caddis, mayfly and midges are the four basic groups.

Burnside brings out a tray that has fermenting bugs to show how the fake bugs resemble what nature creates.

The entomology of fly fishing is what needs to be learned. It won’t matter how good someone casts if what’s on at the other end isn’t something the fish would eat.

“It’s part of the challenge and game we play with trout,” Burnside said.

Dry flies are the adult stage of the bug. They are mayfly, caddis, attractor, hoppers and stonefly. All are used on the surface.



Like most sporting goods stores, Tahoe Fly Fishing has something for all ability levels.

Photo/Kathryn Reed

Hoppers – that's short for grasshopper. They are a huge food source for trout.

"On the East Carson we see blue hoppers," Burnside said.

The reason the fly needs to get so close to the fish is that trout are known for being lazy. They tread water, so to speak, waiting for the current to bring them food. They see something they like and they go for it. They know what bugs they want – that's why what's on the end of the line needs to look like a bug the fish are used to eating and what they want that day or hour.

All trips through Tahoe Fly Fishing are catch and release. Barbs are crimped at the end.

Burnside calls the fish his "business partners" – decimating the fishing holes would put guide service companies out of business.

But one thing that isn't being done that could be, according to Tahoe Fly Fishing owner Victor Babbitt, is promoting the variety of fishing in Lake Tahoe – not just fly.

"Sixty million Americans fish. It's the No. 1 recreation activity in the nation," Babbitt told *Lake Tahoe News*. "You can hardly find it on the LTVA website."

Until he started blogging on the visitors' authority's website, it was hard to find fly fishing, Babbitt said.

"We have a big, huge lake with fish. Why aren't we targeting fishermen? It flabbergasts me," Babbitt said.

While the tourism gurus may not recognize the value of fishing in Tahoe and area lakes and rivers, Babbitt is getting the word out. With a mild winter and spring, his business is doing well. When the water subsides in August, it could be a

different story.

But as Burnside told this rookie angler, he would always pick September and October as the best times to fish in the Sierra because the water temp is the most consistent.

It’s back to learning.

Knowing how fish react to water temperatures, light, food sources – it’s what’s needed before the first line is cast for the day.