

Park board to consider agreement with EDC

Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District's board of directors will meet Feb. 5 at 6pm in the Lake Valley Fire Department's training room behind the station.

This is a continuation of the January meeting that ended because of time.

Here is Thursday's agenda as well a copy of the draft MOU between TPRID and El Dorado County.

IRS phone scams making the rounds

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office continues to receive calls reporting telephone scams involving aggressive and threatening calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents. This activity is expected to increase during the current tax filing season.

Scammers commonly prey upon those that are most vulnerable, such as the elderly, newly arrived immigrants, and those whose first language is not English.

The following information provided by the Internal Revenue Service will help identify fraudulent calls. According to the IRS, there are five things that scammers often do, but the IRS will never do:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will the agency call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a

bill.

- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

According to the IRS, fraudulent callers often alter caller ID numbers to make it look like the IRS is calling and will identify themselves by using fake names and bogus IRS badge numbers.

Anyone who receives a scam telephone call is encouraged by the IRS to report the incident by calling 800.366.4484.

Squaw, Alpine celebration focuses on kids

Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows' 6th annual Kid-O-Rama celebration returns Feb. 14-21. This family-friendly tradition features street parties, live music, cookie happy-hour, free face painting, kid-approved game and craft room, and fan-favorite Big Truck Day.

Big Truck Day, offered at both mountains for the first time, invites youngsters to get behind the wheel of some heavy-duty machinery, including fire trucks, snowplows, grooming

machines, snowmobiles and more. Big Truck Day is Feb. 16 and Feb. 19 from 3-5pm in the Village at Squaw Valley. At Alpine Meadows, Big Truck Day will be Feb. 14 from 10:30am-2pm.

For more information, go online.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- South Tahoe High School students Kori Zwijsacz, Joemae Santos, Lauren Tang, Cara Filce, Catherine Baghdikian, Christina Boyar and Angelica Rodriguez were honored by Soroptimist International South Lake Tahoe as this year's Young Women of Distinction.
- South Tahoe Alliance of Resorts is giving the Tahoe Prosperity Center \$10,000 a year for three years. Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation has approved a grant of \$15,000 to the Measuring for Prosperity Indicators project.
- Diamond Peak Ski Resort and the Incline Village General Improvement District will reward Incline Village students with a free 2014-15 Diamond Peak season pass if their January 2015 report card has straight A's.
- The next Clearing the Chakras series is Feb. 3 from 6-7pm at Rejuvenate in South Lake Tahoe on Ski Run Boulevard. It is free, but donations are accepted. For more info, call 530.541.6565.
- The Wineries of Fair Play are celebrating all things chocolate and wine in February. Each participating winery will feature some kind of chocolate decadence paired with their wines.

Then and now: From Sahara to Hard Rock



The Sahara Tahoe opened in 1965. Photo/Bill Kingman

Del Webb's Sahara-Tahoe opened in 1965 in Stateline.

Elvis Presley appeared in more than 100 performances in the Sahara-Tahoe's High Sierra Theater during the early 1970s. Elvis proclaimed it as his favorite showroom of all. Dozens of other major names in entertainment like Johnny Carson, Jack Benny and Liberace performed there, plus Karen and Richard Carpenter made their Nevada showroom debut at the Sahara.

The theater later offered first-run movies, and then it became the "Chuckwagon Buffet." Major live entertainment waned.

From 1983 until 1990, the resort was remodeled as Del Webb's High Sierra, featuring a western theme with Lily's Dance Hall.

Columbia-Sussex bought the property in 1990 and renamed it the Horizon. Concluding a dramatic decline in business, Horizon closed its doors March 31, 2014.

With a \$60 million renovation of the entire property, Hard

Rock Hotel and Casino opened Jan. 28, 2015.

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– *Bill Kingman*

USFS looking for input on grant application

Tahoe National Forest officials are preparing an annual application to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division, to request funding for trail maintenance, restoration, development of facilities, law enforcement, and planning for off-highway vehicle access.

These annual grants provide funds for the Forest Service to develop and maintain trails and trailheads, repair winter storm damage and restore trailside environments, as well as provide patrolling and monitoring of these areas.

On Feb. 12 from 4-7pm the U.S. Forest Service will host an open house for people to provide input and review proposals for the application. Comments are being accepted until Feb. 24.

The open house is at 631 Coyote St., Nevada City. For more info, email joetchavez@fs.fed.us or call 530.478.6158.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Damian Santana, left, and Aaron Santana show off the sculpture created by Edwin Winslow for Sierra House Elementary School in South Lake Tahoe. The school motto is Sierra House Rocks.

- The High Fives Foundation is giving Tahoe City resident Eric Zerrenner \$8,560 to be used for medical transportation from Renown Medical Center in Reno to Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colo., along with 12 sessions of acupuncture and massage at the Colorado facility. On Jan. 8 when skiing at Alpine Meadows he went to jump off of a roller, which dropped down to a flat landing. He burst fractured his L1 vertebrae causing paralysis from his waist down.

- The 2015 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Hotel Rankings included 47 of Ritz-Carlton hotel properties. The Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe was named among the Best Hotels in the USA, Best California Hotels and Best Lake Tahoe Hotels.

- Author Patti Higdon will be at Comma Coffee (312 South Carson St., Carson City) on Feb. 7 from 1-5pm signing copies of her book "Bobby, the Blue-Footed Booby".

- Tahoe Truckee Excellence in Education Foundation is offering

\$60 full-day, adult lift tickets to Northstar Feb. 1-6. All tickets sales go to the foundation. Tickets are available on a first-come, first served basis and may be purchased online and at Tahoe Dave's ski shops located in Truckee, Kings Beach and Tahoe City.

Barton conducting phone survey

If someone calls asking questions about Barton Health, it's not a scam.

Barton is conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment survey by phone. The assessment is done every three years. The results will guide Barton Health and other local health and human service agencies on what is considered the community's most pressing health needs.

The survey takes between 20 and 25 minutes and is anonymous. Respondents will be asked in detail about their health history. The survey is conducted by a third party from out of the area to ensure privacy of personal information. Responses will be compiled and only used for the assessment.

For more info, call 530.543.5537.

Phone scam making rounds in EDC

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office has received reports of people receiving a telephone call from someone identifying themselves as a computer technician working for a reputable computer company such as Dell. The caller tells the victim they are certified to work on Microsoft products and they received warning messages from the victim's computer that it is vulnerable and they called to fix the problem.

Officials are warning people this is a scam. Microsoft or their partners do not make unsolicited phone calls, often referred to as cold calls, about your computer's security or software.

Cyber criminals may ask you to go to a legitimate website and install software which will allow them to access your computer remotely in order to fix it. Once you do this, your computer and personal information is vulnerable.

If you receive a phone call like this, hang-up and refuse to become a victim.

LTCC inviting public to learn about bond

Lake Tahoe Community College is hosting an open house Feb. 5 from 5-7pm to educate the public about Measure F, what it will mean for the campus and community.

It will be in the main building.

Administrators, staff and students will answer questions about the bond, and share information about what's coming to campus, and when.