

Happy trailers to you – boom in small RVs

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

During the Super Bowl, a lodging alternative to expensive hotels became a cult hit, “Skip the hotel and rent an RV.”

With the vacation season imminent, the familiar tune in Northern California and much of the nation seems to be, “Skip the hotel and buy an RV.”

Many who have vacationed in rental recreational vehicles in recent years have decided to buy them for this coming summer.

But it's not the giant, have-it-all motor homes that have captivated the public. Rather it's small trailers – which can easily be backed into campsites at parks and National Forest Service campgrounds – that are flying off the lots. One broker told me he is selling smaller RV trailers at a rate of 10-to-1 to the large luxury units.

Read the whole story

SLT Library challenging all ages to read this summer

South Lake Tahoe Library is hosting a summer reading challenge from June 21 to Aug. 27.

Children, teens and adults of all ages are encouraged to

participate. No registration is required; just pick up a reading log at the library and read.

Special performances will be on Fridays at 2 pm from July 8-Aug. 12.

For more information view the events calendar **online**.

State Parks' archives part of tour for Sierra residents

Sierra State Parks Foundation is putting on its inaugural Archives Tour on June 15.

Attendees will meet at Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center at 9am for a trip to the California State Park Archives at McClellan Air Force Base.

Lunch is provided, along with exclusive access to the China Bar Lawn at the Auburn State Recreation Area. Attendees will be joined by a state park interpreter turning lunch hour into an opportunity to learn more about the Gold Country.

At McClellan Air Force Base docents will give a tour of the California State Park Archives. The Statewide Museum Collections Center is described as "a working collections management facility and its open storage concept allows tour participants to go behind the scenes for a close-up look at the diversity of materials acquired by cultural specialists throughout the state and how these historic objects are stored and preserved."

The first stops include archives, photo archives, and archaeology where the corresponding head archivist/curator

will talk about each program and any current projects. Then there is the processing hall where attendees will be able to see various processing rooms, the conservation lab and isolation room. This leads back into the vault for a tour of three bays of open storage collection space – highlighting various historical objects and the stories behind them. Artifacts from the Sierra region will be highlighted.

Tickets are \$60 (\$55 for members), with limited seating. Reservations are required. Parking, transportation, entrance fees, lunch and snacks are included in the ticket price. To purchase tickets, go **online**.

Adult smoking rate in U.S. keeps declining

By Associated Press

NEW YORK – The nation seems to be kicking its smoking habit faster than ever before.

The rate of smoking among adults in the U.S. fell to 15 percent last year thanks to the biggest one-year decline in more than 20 years, according to a new government report.

The rate fell two percentage points from 2014, when about 17 percent of adults in a large national survey said they had recently smoked.

The smoking rate has been falling for decades, but it usually drops only 1 point or less in a year.

The last time there was a drop nearly as big was from 1992 to 1993, when the smoking rate fell 1.5 percentage points, according to Brian King of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new statistic is based on a large national survey that is the government's primary measuring stick for many health-related trends.

Smoking is the nation's leading cause of preventable illness, causing more than 480,000 deaths each year in the United States, the CDC estimates.

Why the smoking rate fell so much in 2015 – and whether it will fall as fast again – is not quite clear.

About 50 years ago, roughly 42 percent of U.S. adults smoked. It was common nearly everywhere – in office buildings, restaurants, airplanes and even hospitals. The smoking rate's gradual decline has coincided with an increased public understanding that smoking is a cause of cancer, heart disease and other lethal health problems.

Experts attribute recent declines to the mounting impact of antismoking advertising campaigns, cigarette taxes and smoking bans.

The increased marketing of electronic cigarettes and their growing popularity has also likely played a role. But it is not yet clear whether this will help further propel the decline in smoking, or contribute to an increase in smoking in years to come.

E-cigarettes heat liquid nicotine into a vapor, delivering the chemical that smokers crave without the harmful by-products generated from burning tobacco.

That makes them a potentially useful tool to help smokers quit, but experts fear it also creates a new way for people to get addicted to nicotine.

Some CDC surveys have shown a boom in e-cigarette use among teenagers, and health officials fear many of those kids will get hooked on nicotine and later become smokers.

As today's teenage e-cigarette users become adults in the next few years, "we may see 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds pick up the habit," worried Jonathan Whiteson, a smoking cessation specialist at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York.

Still, he and others are optimistic in part because regulators are turning their attention to the potential dangers of e-cigarettes. Earlier this month, the Food and Drug Administration announced sweeping new rules that will for the first time apply long-standing rules covering traditional cigarettes to e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco, pipe tobacco and nicotine gels. Minors would be banned from buying the products.

Workshop topic – better customer service

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Tahoe Tactical Team is having a Knock-Your-Socks-Off customer service workshop on June 15, 1-5pm, at the chamber's conference room (169 Highway 50, Stateline).

Team coach Anne Marie Smith will teach how to turn customers into raving fans who turn a business into a powerhouse of repeat customers.

Not a business owner? Use the workshop to elevate your career with the highest level of customer service standards.

Attendees will be taught techniques and phrases to make customers feel valued, methods of managing difficult situations more effectively, and how to win over even the most stubborn of sales.

The Tahoe Tactical Team provides help with all aspects of starting, running, and growing a small business at no cost.

The Knock-Your-Socks-Off-Workshop is \$20 for members, and \$40 for non-members. For more information and to register, go **online**.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Hannah

Hannah is a 2 year old Dogue De Bordeaux mix who weighs about 50 pounds.

She is a very sweet, calm girl who has had a rough life so

far, and is happy to be treated nicely now. Like bulldogs, this breed doesn't do well in excessive heat, and owners should be careful not to over-exercise them.

Hannah gets along well with the other big dogs at the shelter. As with all dogs you should bring your dog to meet her.

Hannah is spayed, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. She 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 to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page 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.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Duckee Derbee to benefit Humane Society

The Truckee Duckee Derbee rubber duck race on the Truckee River at River Ranch Lodge raises funds for the Humane Society of Truckee Tahoe, and includes music, barbecue, raffle, dog costume contest and more.

The 13th annual event is June 12 from 1-4pm.

A new event, called Chuck a Duck, challenges participants to throw a rubber duck into a floating target. The raffle winner

will ride away with a Tahoe cruiser bike, and silent auction bidders will have a chance at winning a signed baseball from San Francisco Giants pitcher Sergio Romo, a Burton snowboard and a Squaw Alpine getaway package, among other items.

The pre-race party and registration starts at 1pm; Dogz in Dudz and Cool Catz in Hatz at 2pm, the Chuck a Duck at 3pm and the Derbee commences immediately after. Cost to sponsor a duck is \$10 and the top three ducks win cash. There is no cost to enter the K-9 costume or hat contest.

Ducks may be purchased **online** prior to the event and Derbee winners need not be present to collect cash prizes.

Handbell group putting on 2 Tahoe shows

Reno-based handbell ensemble Tintabulations is headed to perform in the 17th annual International Handbell Symposium to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia in July.

Selected at the national level, the nonprofit group Tintab will be co-representing the U.S. at this worldwide event.

Before heading to the International Handbell Symposium Tintabulations will be presenting a free concert series called In Times and Places. They will be in Incline Village on June

11 at Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church, 341 Village Boulevard at 1pm and in South Lake Tahoe at Hope Lutheran Church (930 Julie Lane) on June 26 at 7pm.

Under the creative baton of artistic director Barb Walsh, the group has been performing since 1996.

TOCCATA's summer series set to begin

TOCCATA – Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus – kicks off its 11th Summer MusicFest on June 12 with Go4Baroque – Summer Solstice Series.

The program opens with Bach's "Concerto in C minor BWV1060" featuring Josue Casillas on flute and Nita Tune, oboe, and continues with Bach's "Cantata BWV 180, Schmücke dich", with soloists Anna Helwing, Becky Earl, and Anne Davidson, sopranos; Brad Perry, tenor; and Emzy Burroughs, baritone. The program continues with Vivaldi's "Concerto in D" for guitar featuring Yuri Liberzon, and "Concerto for Recorder in F" featuring John Cardosa. A concerto by Johann Fasch for two oboes features Elizabeth Eubanks and Rebecca Mueller.

The concert concludes with Bach's famous "Brandenburg Concerto No. 4" for violin and two flutes, strings and continuo. Jeff Lindhorst and Rick Stockton will be the violin soloists, with Josue Casillas and Allison Smith on flute. Nick Haines and Katie Lauder will be the continuo players.

Performances are:

- June 12, 4pm: St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Incline

Village, 341 Village Blvd.

- June 15, 7pm: Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 3597 N. Sunridge Drive in Carson City
- June 17, 7pm: First United Methodist Church, 209 W. First St. in Reno.
- June 19, 4pm: St. Theresa Church, 1041 Lyons Ave. in South Lake Tahoe.

Tickets are available at the door or **online**. General admission is \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors. Preferred seating is \$35 and \$15 for youth/students. Students with ID under 24 years of age are \$5 and under 19 are free in non reserved seating.

Reliving Ali's fight at Stateline

By Steve Sneddon, Reno Gazette-Journal

Muhammad Ali fought professionally in Northern Nevada only once, on Nov. 21, 1972, at the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel (now Hard Rock) in Stateline. Ali won the match via an eighth-round knockout of Bob Foster. The Reno Evening Gazette's Steve Sneddon covered the match and wrote about Ali in his column, "From My Corner." Ali died June 3 at the age of 74.

The guy that wears the white shoes did his thing.

No, Pat Boone wasn't in the area.

We're talking about "the guy" – Muhammad Ali.

Maybe Boone discovered white shoes but Ali has shown everyone what they can do.

The Ali footwork that the fans saw at the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel was the pre-1967 variety.

Read the whole story