

Help available for El Dorado County homeowners

El Dorado County through the HERO Property Assessed Clean Energy Program has money for residents to help finance energy- and water-efficiency improvements.

The money is paid back over time through property tax bills. Interest may be tax-deductible, and homeowners may see immediate savings on utility bills.

Residents of the unincorporated areas of El Dorado County may submit applications for HERO financing. South Lake Tahoe and Placerville launched this financing program in the past year as well.

HERO has a wide variety of products to help homeowners save water, including high-efficiency toilets, faucets and showerheads; drip irrigation systems; rainwater catchment systems; gray water systems; and artificial turf and other drought-tolerant landscaping.

A wide variety of energy-saving products are available through HERO as well.

For more info, go **online**.

Water conservation poster contest for K-5

South Tahoe Public Utility District is putting on a poster contest for Lake Tahoe Unified School District students in

grades K-5.

The purpose is to highlight new and creative ways to save water inside the home. The theme of the poster contest is Promoting Indoor Water Conservation.

K-2 are asked to create a poster demonstrating or promoting ways to save water inside the home, while grades 3-5 are to design a public outreach poster to encourage South Lake Tahoe residents to conserve water indoors.

Submissions must fit on a 12 inch by 18 inch piece of paper or smaller and artwork must be completed using paint, crayons, colored pens or pencils, colored or glitter glue and/or markers. Computer media will not be accepted. Artwork may include up to 20 words.

Two winners will be selected from each grade level. Winners will be notified by Jan. 31 and invited to attend the Feb. 4 board meeting.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 8 at 5pm at the district office, 1275 Meadow Crest Drive South Lake Tahoe.

For more info, call Donielle Morse at 530.543.6268.

Emergency car kit could save your life

By Joe Jackson, Outside

The emergency we're most likely to encounter this winter has nothing to do with a superstorm, nuclear attack, or

apocalyptic volcanic eruption. It's more likely to take place in your car. And when you slide off the road or your ride breaks down, the right gear can mean the difference between life and death.

We spoke with Joel Stevens and Mark Puhaly, owners of Forge Survival Supply, to talk about the gear that belongs in your vehicle this winter. The men also run two successful survival blogs, and co-authored "Everyday Survival Kits: Exactly What You Need for Constant Preparedness", which dedicates an entire chapter to emergency car kits.

Before you switch on the ignition, you'll want to take a few practical measures. First, communicate your travel plans to friends and family, says Stevens.

Read the whole story

Jones' film features 2 decades of extreme riding

On Dec. 17 local hero and extreme snowboarding icon Jeremy Jones will present "An Extreme Snowboarding Retrospective," which captures his two decades as a premier big mountain rider, and contains readings from his new book and a tribute to the role that the Lake Tahoe mountain community has had on his snowboarding.

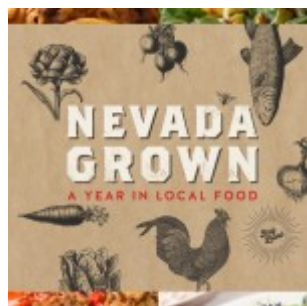
This will be the second installment of Alpenglow Sports' Winter Film Series. The event starts at 7pm at Squaw Valley's Olympic Village Lodge. It is free.

Jones will showcase a blend of photos and video spanning more

than 20 years of riding and the central role the Lake Tahoe mountain community has played in his development as a winter sports athlete. From first descents on steep spine lines in Alaska, to backcountry missions in remote mountain ranges across the globe, Jones will entertain with beautiful photography and edge-of-the-seat extreme helmet camera footage.

The Alpenglow Sports Winter Film Series is designed to inspire, motivate and educate.

Cookbook focuses on Nevada agriculture



NevadaGrown celebrates the launch of the cookbook "NevadaGrown A Year in Local Food" on Dec. 12 from 10am-4pm at Reno Provisions, 100 N. Sierra St., Reno.

The launch party will include recipe demonstrations and samples from featured chefs and farmers, complementary wine and coffee, a local produce giveaway and raffle prizes. Cookbooks will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting NevadaGrown, a nonprofit organization that supports local agriculture.

The cookbook features 150 seasonal recipes from farmers, ranchers, professional chefs and home chefs and highlights the rich diversity of Nevada agriculture. The book is a two-year collaboration of NevadaGrown, RGJ Media, Western Nevada College Specialty Crop Institute and Sundance Books, home

of Baobab Press, which published the book.

“NevadaGrown: A Year in Local Food” will be available for purchase at Sundance Books, Reno Provisions and other local retailers after the cookbook launch at. For more info, go **online**.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Cyrus

Cyrus is a sweet, happy, mellow 9-year-old pit bull. At his age, he's a bit confused about being at the shelter, but he is adapting well.

He walks nicely on the leash, and is even a bit playful with some encouragement. We would expect that he will be more playful when he's settled into his new home. He has been fine with the dogs of all sizes and cats at the shelter.

Cyrus is neutered, microchipped, heart worm negative, and vaccinated. He 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

Genoa's hanging tree a reminder of the past



The hanging tree in Genoa is a relic from one of the town's less savory moments. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

GENOA – In the Old West justice was often swift and outside the legal system – especially in the more unruly mining towns. Places like Bodie were accustomed to recording a killing a day.

But Genoa was different. It was a civilized trading post in the late 1800s. So when a mob took the law into its own hands to hang a man it rattled the 1,000 or so residents. Newspapers, though, called it “Nevada justice.”

Today, that “hanging tree” still exists on Genoa Lane in a cluster of cottonwoods. A plaque is posted on the tree. It reads:

*“On this tree, early morning Nov. 25, 1897
occurred the blackest episode in the
history of Nevada. Adam Uber of
Calaveras Co. Cal. was forcefully taken
from jail abused and hanged by an
angry mob, for the pistol killing of
Hans Anderson a local teamster in a
Millersville bar room brawl.”*

One hundred and twenty-eight years later people are still talking about it. Daniel Wassmund with Nevada State Parks last month led a group to the tree and spilled forth the details about one of the area’s darker moments.

The two men knew each other. Some would say Anderson was Uber’s only friend even though Anderson didn’t really claim Uber as a friend. Uber had made his way out west from Pennsylvania at age 15. Before arriving in Genoa he had been

living in Calaveras County.

The two ended up at the same bar in Millersville, which was between Minden and Gardnerville. Red Eye was Uber's drink of choice that night. "A strong, homemade libation," is how Wassmund described it. An argument ensued and Uber ended up shooting Anderson.

Uber was taken to the jail inside the courthouse in Genoa. His rich uncle paid for his attorney, who had his client plead not guilty on the grounds of mental deficiency. Reports are that Uber was so drunk he didn't remember the shooting. He had woken up in jail not knowing why he was there.

The locals were not satisfied with how the court proceedings were going.

At 2am the sheriff heard banging and opened the door to find 15 angry men with guns. The constable was greeted in much the same manner. The mob got the keys to the jail and dragged Uber into the dark night. Via a wagon they took him to what is now known as the hanging tree.

As Wassmund tells the story, the horses got spooked and Uber was left dangling.

"His last words are a curse on everyone," Wassmund said. "No one knew if the curses had spiritual value. They were scared of what they didn't know."

To make sure Uber was really dead they fired nine shots into his body.

Some of the men believed to be part of the vigilante act died in peculiar ways; like the constable who had a horrible plowing accident. All were blamed on the curse of Uber.

To this day some say they see Uber's silhouette in the mist on a full moon, others hear his footsteps at the museum at Mormon Station State Historic Park in Genoa.

Tahoe woman repurposes old skis into furniture



Marianne Rosenfeld makes wine holders similar to this one. Photo/LTN

By Cathie Anderson, Sacramento Bee

Up the hill at Placerville's Snowline Hospice, employees know Marianne Rosenfeld as "The Ski Lady" because she picks up old skis that people donate to the nonprofit's processing center and refashions them into chairs.

Rosenfeld hauls the skis farther up the mountain to South Lake Tahoe where, at some point in the future, they will have a date with her chop saw, she said. She likes to collect skis from the foothills and valley floor because she gets the right kind to make her four styles of chairs and benches.

"In Lake Tahoe, everybody skis. It's the culture. It's all we do, so in the minds of people up there, an old ski might be from '98 or 2000. That's old to us," Rosenfeld said. "But people down here who don't ski that much, when they say 'old

ski,' they mean '70s. When I come down here, I really get a lot of skis. The term 'old' is different for everybody."

Rosenfeld prefers the older skis because their runners still have the straight edges rather than the curved, parabolic shape of today's skis.

Read the whole story

Know the rules before gifting a drone

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

It's the season of drones, with experts estimating that shoppers will purchase as many as 400,000 small unmanned aerial vehicles during the 2015 holiday season.

In the past year, retail drones have become increasingly available to consumers. But if you're thinking about buying one for a family member or friend – or maybe treating yourself to one – you should be aware of parameters and rules governing their use.

As Michael Huerta, director of the Federal Aviation Administration, recently wrote: "Pilots with little or no aviation experience will be at the controls of many of these aircraft. Many of these new aviators may not even be aware that their activities in our airspace could be dangerous to other aircraft – or that they are, in fact, pilots once they start flying their unmanned aircraft."

Read the whole story

Cops to be out in force looking for DUI offenders

South Lake Tahoe Police Department is one of many law enforcement agencies across the U.S. that is planning to actively search for and arrest drunken drivers from Dec. 18 to Jan. 3.

As part of the national Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over enforcement campaign period police, sheriff's departments and the CHP will be deploying DUI checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols during that time. South Lake Tahoe officers will be conducting a DUI checkpoint on Dec. 21 from 6-pm to Dec. 22 at 2am, in addition to having nine roving DUI saturation patrols starting Dec. 5. The DUI saturation patrols will be operating from 7pm-2am.

In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in crashes involving a drunken driver, according to officers. In December 2013, there were 733 people killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or higher. Twenty-three of those deaths occurred on Christmas Day. California had 98 deaths and another 1,852 injured in alcohol involved collisions in December 2013.

South Lake Tahoe officer suggest these tips to stay safe:

- Plan a safe way to get home before you attend the party. Alcohol impairs judgment, as well as reaction time. If you're impaired you're more likely to choose to drive drunk.
- Designate a sober driver; take public transportation, a car service, or a call a sober friend or family member to

get home.

- Walking while impaired can be just as dangerous as drunken driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you see someone you think is about to drive while impaired, take his or her keys and help the person get home safely.