

# Wildfire burning in rural El Dorado County

Evacuations are in effect for part of El Dorado County's wine region.

The Ranch Fire has burned 80 acres and is 15 percent contained. It started about 2pm July 26. The cause is unknown.

Pioneer Park in Somerset is now an evacuation center for the people on Derby Lane, Derby Court, Coyote Ridge, Mystic Road, Floral Avenue, Rosewood Lane, Johnson Mine Road and North Mine Road who have been told to leave. The county fairgrounds is taking large animals.

Mount Aukum Road is closed between Omo Ranch Road and Fair Play Road.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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## Caesars shareholders take steps to emerge from bankruptcy

By Richard N. Velotta Las Vegas Review-Journal

Caesars Entertainment Corp., parent company to 47 hotels and casinos in six countries, including nine properties in Las Vegas, is one step closer to emerging from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The company announced Tuesday that shareholders of two operating companies – Caesars Entertainment Corp. and Caesars Acquisition Co. – voted to approve a merger that would place 18 resorts nationwide, including four in Nevada, under a newly formed company that would be called Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. The rest of the properties aren't a part of the bankruptcy and are operated by separate subsidiaries.

Caesars Entertainment is the parent company of Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harveys in Stateline.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Crash victim deploys emergency beacon, prompting rescue**

**By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee**

A motorcyclist who damaged his knee when he hit a tree used a satellite emergency beacon to summon CHP rescuers who hoisted him into a hovering helicopter.

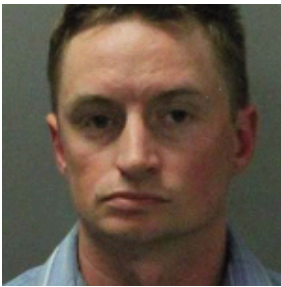
Daniel Thalhuber, 21, of San Jose, was on a motorcycle trip alone to trace the Pacific Coast Trail using rural roads and trails, according to the California Highway Patrol. However, his trip came to a halt on his first full day of riding about 6:30pm Sunday when he hit a tree in an off-road crash in the Cody Lake area of El Dorado County.

**Read the whole story**

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# Arrest made in ski resort indecent exposure cases

By Jason Green, Bay Area News Group



Wellington  
Potter

Detectives have arrested a 34-year-old San Jose man suspected of exposing himself to more than half a dozen children in Santa Clara and at ski resorts in the Lake Tahoe area.

Santa Clara police kicked off an investigation on July 17 after a man reportedly called a 9-year-old girl over to his window and exposed himself while masturbating.

A few days later, a detective reviewed a Placer County Sheriff's Office flier naming Wellington Harned Potter as a suspect in seven indecent exposure incidents at Lake Tahoe area ski resorts. Most of the victims were girls, ranging in age from 7- to 15-years-old.

**[Read the whole story](#)**

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# Soccer player rescued from Tahoe back with team

Reno 1868 FC midfielder Matheus Silva on Saturday returned to Greater Nevada Field for the first time since nearly drowning at Zephyr Cove on July 4.

Silva met with the people who helped pull him from the water and received a standing ovation from the Greater Nevada Field crowd.



Matheus Silva

Head coach Ian Russell said, "I thought it was great. He's been working out with us the past couple of days. He's wanted to come back and play soccer ever since he was in the hospital. It was great to see him out there with the people who helped save his life."

The 20-year-old was playing this season on loan from the San Jose Earthquakes for Reno 1868 FC, which is part of the United Soccer League.

Seth Casiple, Reno 1868 FC midfielder said, "We just want to thank the Lord for his recovery. The people at Renown (hospital in Reno) did a fantastic job and it was great to have him back."

# **Progressive plan by Vail Resorts to use 100% renewable energy, create zero waste by 2030**



Vail Resorts is initiating a companywide policy to thwart climate change. Photo/LTN file

**By Kathryn Reed**

California and Colorado-based Vail Resorts on Tuesday each took significant steps in the fight against climate change.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to extend the state's cap-and-trade program to 2030. The legislation, which gives companies incentives to pollute less, was set to expire in 2020.

Vail Resorts is implementing a plan at all of its ski resorts – including Heavenly, Kirkwood and Northstar in the greater Lake Tahoe area – to have zero net emissions by 2030, zero waste to landfills by 2030 and zero net operating impact to forests and habitat.

“This initiative is smart for our business and good for the planet. Being energy efficient results in immediate and lasting reductions in our company's operating costs and improves our energy resiliency,” Kevin Cooper, spokesman for Heavenly-Kirkwood, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Our investments in renewable energy can lock in very competitive rates well into the future, which provides cost certainty. Our efforts to achieve zero waste result in considerable reductions in both hauling and landfill costs. And managing the health and resilience of our forests and habitat is sound, long-term planning for our critical mountain environments and for watersheds.”

The cost to implement the plan and any long-term savings are not being disclosed by the ski conglomerate.



Improving the snowcat fleet will help reduce emissions.  
Photo/LTN file

While California and Vail Resorts tout their environmental initiatives, the United States as a whole will not attain the goals set forth in the Paris accord without other states and large companies following their lead.

At the ski resorts there will be no immediate impact to skiers or other guests. What they are likely to notice is information being provided to explain the program, and food being served in recyclable or compostable containers.

*Lake Tahoe News* asked: How can there be zero waste to landfills when guests bring their own food/waste? The answer: silence.

Today, about 60 percent of Vail's waste ends up in a landfill. By 2020, the goal is to reduce that to 50 percent, with 100 percent diversion planned for 2030.

More efficient grooming practices is one way to help reach the company's goals.

"Our commitment to energy efficiency includes reducing fuel usage in our mountain operations vehicles – from snowcats to shuttle buses to Colorado Mountain Express. As the mountain



resort industry leader, we've had the opportunity to pilot the latest technology for grooming, hybrid-electric snowcats and are working with vendors to improve those technologies," Cooper said. "We've also invested in state-of-the-art grooming efficiency software which is being piloted in Colorado in anticipation of a companywide roll out."

Another way to be more energy efficient is with better chairlifts. This will happen at Vail, Beaver Creek, Keystone and Breckenridge in Colorado before next season. No chairlift upgrades are planned this year for any of the California Vail-owned resorts. Considering Kirkwood Mountain Resort mostly has outdated infrastructure and Heavenly still operates a two-person lift, there is plenty of room for improvement locally.



The goal is in 13 years to not have any food product go to a landfill. Photo/LTN file

New lifts often require the elimination of trees.

"Under our commitment, any tree removal would be offset by replanting or restoring forests and trees equivalent what may be removed acre for acre. We're partnered with the National Forest Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the U.S. Forest Service, to identify and prioritize opportunities for reforestation and improving the health and residency of existing forests in or around our resorts," Cooper said.



However, he would not say if the replanting would actually occur in the same forest where the trees were removed.

Whistler Blackcomb's progressive environmental policies helped push its new owners to make this similar commitment companywide. It is being called the Epic Promise for a Zero Footprint. Vail bought the Canadian resort a year ago.

"For our zero net emissions goals, we are working with Ceres, Rocky Mountain Institute and RE100. To accurately track our progress toward zero waste, we are piloting a new waste tracking software solution. For our commitment to zero net operating impact to forests and habitats, we are partnered with the National Forest Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service and will continue to leverage their established methodology for identifying opportunities and managing forestry projects," Cooper said. "We will work with these and other third-party organizations to study and report on the long-term impacts of these projects. We will plan to share the company's progress in an annual sustainability report, following the close of the fiscal year ending July 2018, which will follow the Global Reporting Initiative's standard."

RE100 is a group of companies with the same goal of using 100 percent renewable energy; including Anheuser-Busch InBev, Coca Cola, Apple, Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Nestle, Nike and Starbucks.

This is how Vail plans to achieve its goals:

- Reduce electricity and natural gas use 15 percent on top of the 19 percent already achieved since 2008 by improving operating practices and investing \$25 million in innovative, energy-saving projects, such as low-energy snowmaking equipment, green building design and construction, and more efficient grooming practices and equipment.

- Purchase 100 percent renewable energy equivalent to Vail Resorts' total electrical energy use and working with

utilities and local, regional and national governments to bring more renewable energy to the grids where the company operates its resorts.

- Investing in programs such as tree planting to offset the use of other types of energy like gasoline and diesel.
  - Engaging with vendors and suppliers to reduce their emissions and environmental impact.
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## **Dems going after Calif. GOP congressional seats**

**By Angela Hart, Sacramento Bee**

Regina Bateson was one of 750 people who at an April town hall listened to Republican Congressman Tom McClintock voice support for efforts by leaders of his party to scrap Obamacare, question the science behind climate change and dismiss the need for an investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

It was a pivotal moment for her. Soon after, she launched her campaign for California's 4th Congressional District, a deep-red Republican stronghold encompassing the heart of the Sierra – including Lake Tahoe – that McClintock has represented since 2009.

Bateson, a Democrat and political newcomer, is one of more than 40 Democrats challenging Republican incumbents next year in 11 of the 14 House seats California Republicans hold in Congress. Between April and the end of June, the first quarter she filed, Bateson raised almost \$100,000 – more than any

Democrat running in the district has raised in a first quarter.

**Read the whole story**

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## Electrical issue forces evacuation of SLT hotel



Guests at Lake Tahoe Vacation Resort mill about outside July 25 after being evacuated. Photo/SLTFD

Guests at Lake Tahoe Vacation Resort in South Lake Tahoe were evacuated briefly Tuesday night when a fire alarm went off.

Firefighters said soldering in the wall on the fifth floor activated the alarm on July 25. Soldering is used to connected electronic components.

As of 6:30pm all the guests were allowed to return to their time shares on Ski Run Boulevard. They were out of the complex for about 30 minutes.

A call to the hotel was not returned.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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## **Judge denies injunction against Nev. pot distribution**

**By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal**

CARSON CITY – A Carson City judge on Monday rejected a request by a group of liquor distributors to stop emergency regulations allowing Nevada marijuana licensees to distribute recreational pot to retail stores.

The case was heard by Carson City District Judge James Todd Russell, who initially expressed skepticism about what emergency existed that required the adoption of the regulations on July 13 by the Nevada Tax Commission.

But after listening to arguments for 90 minutes, Russell denied a request for a temporary restraining order, finding that one reason cited as justification for the regulations, the protection of state tax revenues, had merit.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Marin County man dies in solo**

# accident on Hwy. 88

A Bay Area man died in a single-vehicle accident on Sunday in Alpine County.

David Martin, 62, of Woodacre was going west on Highway 88 west of the Carson River Bridge when the crash occurred.

Because there were no witnesses to the accident, officers don't know for sure what happened. However, evidence points to Martin drifting onto the dirt shoulder. The 2001 BMW hit a rock embankment and flipped.

Martin was pronounced dead at the scene on July 23 at 6:20pm.

No one else was in the vehicle.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*