

Stateline casino revenue keeps declining

Stateline casinos were a drain on the overall July gaming revenue numbers for Nevada.

July is often a good month for Stateline because of tourists coming to town for Fourth of July and the American Century Championship. With schools starting in August, it is now considered the busiest summer month for the area.

Compared to 2013, the South Shore casinos were down 22 percent to \$25 million.

North Shore casinos were up slightly last month compared to the prior year at \$3.5 million – a 5.3 percent increase.

The \$931 million win for the state was a 0.65 increase from July 2013, the Nevada Gaming Control Board said Aug. 28.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Burning Man an economic blip for Fernley

By Kyle Roerink, Las Vegas Sun

The city of Fernley is among the last signs of civilization on the road to the Burning Man festival.

The majority of the 60,000 beatniks, bohemians, freethinkers and adventurers attending this year's Burning Man traveled through the town to arrive at the event, which started

Tuesday.

The town's Wal-Mart Supercenter and Lowe's Home Improvement are beacons to the bands of travelers who come to Northern Nevada for the weeklong fete, where radical artwork and nonconformist behavior are on display.

Many "burners" tout the experience as a crash course in "self-reliance." After they pay for the \$380 ticket, they build a makeshift community and use nonmonetary means to barter goods.

But before they partake in the noncapitalist festivities, many of them stop to shop in Fernley.

Read the story

Lizards' tail regeneration may help humans

By Jacqueline Howard, Huffington Post

When a lizard loses its tail, it grows back. But how?

Scientists have taken a big step closer to answering that question by pinpointing the genes responsible for tail regeneration. And the finding may yield important clues about how to regenerate limbs in humans.

For the study, the researchers took a close look at roughly 23,000 genes found in samples of sliced-up tails of green anole lizards. They found that at least 326 genes in specific spots along each tail were "turned on" during regeneration – suggesting that lizard DNA has a genetic "recipe" for regeneration.

“We were completely surprised,” study co-author Dr. Kenro Kusumi, a professor of life sciences at Arizona State University, told The Huffington Post in an email. “We were expecting all of the regeneration to be focused at the tip of the growing tail. Instead, the cells are dividing in distinct pockets including muscle, cartilage, spinal cord, and skin all throughout the tail.”

Read the whole story

Rim Fire salvage logging plan unveiled

By Diana Marcum, Los Angeles Times

The U.S. Forest Service on Wednesday unveiled a salvage logging operation for more than 15,000 acres of trees burned in last summer’s Rim Fire.

The plan – which calls for removing an additional 17,706 acres of trees along non-public roads – means the Forest Service will be selling more board feet of timber as a result of the Rim fire than the combined total sold last year in all of California’s national forests.

Because the value of burned trees for logging deteriorates quickly, the plan was formed under emergency rules allowing salvage to begin immediately after approval, without going through an administrative appeal process.

Read the whole story

Placer County embraces Laura's Law

Laura's Law has been adopted by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. It takes effect in January.

This gives county mentally health officials, as well as courts, family members and probation officers the right to mandate mental health treatment in certain circumstances.

The estimated \$400,000 annual expense to Placer County will be paid for by state and federal dollars.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Crews contain Kingsbury Grade wildland fire



Smoke from the Kingsbury Grade fire could be seen for long ways. Photo/USFS

Updated Aug. 27 5:44pm

Less than 2 acres of National Forest burned in a remote area on the Carson side of Kingsbury Grade on Wednesday afternoon.

As of 4:20pm firefighters had stopped it from spreading farther and were laying a hose around it, according to the U.S. Forest Service. The initial reports were that 6 acres burned, but that has since been revised.

While helicopters and airplanes had been making air drops on the terrain, all but one helicopter remains on this fire. The U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe Douglas fire and East Fork fire are on the scene.

While there has been no lightning today, it could be called what's called a "sleeper" from Monday's storm.

"It is possible it could be because of lightning. That side of the hill took a lot of strikes," Eric Guevin, spokesman for Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Kingsbury Grade was closed as of 2:30pm Aug. 27.

One member of a Bureau of Indian Affairs hotshot crew was taken to Barton Memorial Hospital as a precaution after the vehicle he was in was in a traffic accident near Harrah's Lake Tahoe at about 3:35pm.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Tahoe putting emphasis on

regional transit

By Kathryn Reed

Lake Tahoe is making strides to have a coordinated regional transit system. A significant step is this week there will be a job posting by Tahoe Transportation District for a transit system program manager.

“We need to answer: ‘What does an integrated transit system in the entire Tahoe area look like?’,” Carl Hasty, TTD executive director, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

As TTD goes forward with developing the environmental documents for ferry service on the lake between the North and South shores, it must explain how the basin could have coordinated service. This is because if ferry passengers are left at the terminus without public transit, the boat will be a failure.

As it is now, the bus companies operating at the lake are not integrated.



Improvements are already happening on Highway 28, like the roundabout at the base of Mount Rose Highway. Photo/LTN

The person who is hired will be tasked with coming up with a plan that links current systems and anticipates for future

growth.

One thing planners are looking at is how the 6.5 million people who are in the Bay Area/Sacramento market could come to Tahoe. How will they get here? And how will they get around when they are here? And with the forecast calling for that number to grow by 4 million more in the next few decades, it could be gridlock in the basin if everyone is in a private vehicle.

That is why local transit officials are also looking at transit along Highway 50 to Sacramento, Interstate 80 to Sac and Highway 395 in Carson City-Reno and then the routes to Tahoe.

"The system needs to be attractive to riders who don't typically ride," Hasty said.

What that looks like still needs to be worked out.

While TTD is and will continue to do its own studies, it will also tap into other resources. One of those is the travel survey the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency did Aug. 15-24. The survey conducted by NuStats Research Solutions was intended primarily to gather data on travel patterns involving commercial and recreation areas.

TTD is not letting the lack of a coordinated transit manager slow down its progress in making the region more transit friendly.

Instead of going on a project-by-project basis, the new thinking is to look at the entire transit corridor. This was and is still being done along Highway 28 from Spooner to Incline Village. Fourteen stakeholders are involved.



BlueGo helps eliminate the need for a vehicle on the South Shore. Photo/LTN file

The roundabout at Highway 28 and the Mount Rose Highway is one component, as is the East Shore Express bus that operates in the summer.

Now those stakeholders – which include public land owners, NDOT, IVGID and others – are working on a state highway erosion control project that will include highway parking lots. A park and ride at Spooner is being considered, as well as a different location for the aquatic invasive species decontamination operation. It's possible fire hydrants will be installed along Highway 28.

Incline Village General Improvement District needs to move its sewage export line that sits in the highway. That line would be moved into the forest where 11 miles of bike trail are proposed. If the trail goes where the line is, then IVGID would be responsible for the maintenance of it.

The economies of scale approach to planning means total implementation costs less, maintenance could be less and more gets done. Ideally, it's mostly for the public benefit.

Hasty said a coordinated synergy exists today that hasn't been there in the past that is allowing for this cooperative approach to take place.

The corridor approach will be used whenever possible and practical, he said. The Y section of South Lake Tahoe from about Trout Creek to Emerald Bay has been plotted as a corridor, as has Trout Creek to Zephyr Cove.

Raley's to pay \$1.6 mil. in waste disposal suit

By Mark Glover and Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

Raley's has agreed to pay nearly \$1.6 million in civil penalties, costs and funding for environmental projects as part of a settlement related to allegations of improperly disposing hazardous waste.

The judgment is the culmination of a civil enforcement lawsuit filed in San Joaquin County to stop the West Sacramento-based supermarket chain from unlawfully transporting and disposing of retail hazardous waste, according to a press release from at least two of the 25 district attorneys who announced the suit.

The settlement was approved by San Joaquin Superior Court Judge Bob McNatt.

In addition to devoting resources to complying with California environmental law, Raley's has agreed to purchase five mobile freshwater purification systems to provide safe drinking water to local communities during emergencies. The mobile purification systems will be located in Placer, El Dorado, Sonoma, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties, but will be available to communities statewide during emergencies.

Rui Cunha, Placer County assistant director of emergency services, said the water purification trailers “could make a difference for areas hardest hit by temporary water shortages.”

In a statement Monday, Raley’s said: “Upon learning of this inquiry by the district attorneys, we began an immediate investigation and worked with the district attorneys’ offices to find a resolution agreeable to both sides.”

Read the whole story

Remains of missing Truckee man found

Remains found in Truckee on July 12 have been identified as Duane Colin.

The Truckee resident had been reported missing in March.

Investigators do not believe foul play was involved. The exact cause of death remains unknown.

Two hikers found the skeletal remains west of Donner Lake Road in a steep and heavily wooded area above Donner Pass Road.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Truckee imposes stricter irrigation rules

By KRNV-TV

California water conservation efforts are hitting home in Northern Nevada.

State emergency regulations demand a cut to irrigation. Truckee Donner Public Utilities District officials are limiting Truckee area irrigation systems to two uses per week.

The agency is relying on complaints to catch those abusing water privileges and fines begin at the second violation.

Read the whole story