USFS working to stabilize Upper Truckee River

Damage from last winter has forced the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit to stabilize the Upper Truckee River project near Lake Tahoe Airport.

Work began in August on the airport side of the new river channel and will continue on the neighborhood side of the river starting Sept. 11. It should be finished by the end of the month.

Heavy equipment will be brought in to complete the work. This will impact neighborhood trails in the meadow and neighborhood access routes.

Regulators mull ways to expand esports betting

By Thomas Moore, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada’s Gaming Control Board will soon begin allowing sports books to offer bets on a year’s worth of esports events, the board’s chief of enforcement Karl Bennison said Thursday at a gambling and esports conference at the Westgate.

Currently, books can only get permission to offer bets on one event at a time. Under the new procedure, the books would be able to ask for permission to offer bets on a series of events, possibly a year’s worth, if the events are hosted by the same company.

The change could mean more esports betting in Nevada and reflects a growing comfort Nevada's regulators have with the industry. There have only been three events listed in books since the board began approving them last year.

Read the whole story

Placer County moves forward with trail building

Placer County Board of Supervisors this week approved two agreements to help advance the planned Resort Triangle Trail Network.

The now halfway complete Resort Triangle will consist of a continuous 62-miles of trails running from downtown Truckee to Northstar, then to Kings Beach. From there the trail will continue to Tahoe City before returning to Truckee along the Highway 89 corridor.

Lumos & Associates of Carson City will perform engineering and environmental consulting services for the Truckee River Recreational Access Plan in the amount of $249,915.

The plan proposes a multi-use paved trail segment north of Squaw Valley Road all the way to Truckee. It would connect with the existing trail, which runs south of Squaw Valley Road to Tahoe City, connecting all of the Truckee River corridor between Truckee and Tahoe City.

The plan would also identify the restoration and access improvement areas to restore watersheds and wetlands, identify staging areas and trailheads, support connectivity of three

campgrounds and protect the property rights of private landowners.

The Truckee River Recreational Access Plan is expected to be finalized next summer.

Additionally, the board approved a $618,661 construction and design agreement with the Northstar Community Services District to build segments of the Martis Valley Trail, a 10-foot-wide paved multi-use recreation trail approximately nine miles long connecting the Northstar Village to Truckee.

The money comes from hotel taxes generated in North Lake Tahoe.

National tennis tourney coming to Zephyr Cove

By Kathryn Reed

Zephyr Cove Tennis Club will be hosting its first national tournament next week – the USTA National Husband Wife Hard Court Championships.

Each year there are four main husband-wife events played on a different surface: hardcourt, grass, clay and indoors. And like the pros, if a couple were to win them all, it would be a grand slam.

It’s open to any level, though most have a 5.0 or 5.5 rating. The actual categories are combined ages of 100, 120 and 140. More than 50 people have signed up for the Sept. 11-17 tournament. They are coming from as far away as Massachusetts and Florida.

Sheryl and Hersh Herschman, who live part time at the lake and part time in the Palm Springs area, are running the tournament. They are founders of the annual Tahoe Tennis Classic that is played at ZCTC, which is now run by the nonprofit that operates those six courts. For the last three years the Herschmans have run the national father-daughter and mother-son tournaments at Springs Country Club in Rancho Mirage.

“I love Lake Tahoe and wanted to bring these people up here,” Sheryl Herschman told *Lake Tahoe News.*

These tournaments don’t change locations every year, so in many ways this is quite a coup for the Herschmans as well as Zephyr Cove Tennis Club and all of Lake Tahoe.

If all goes well, the Herschmans hope the husband-wife tourney is a regular fall event on the South Shore.

“USTA national tournaments are the only ones that the USTA awards the gold ball to the champions, silver ball to finalists and bronze ball to the third place winners. Being the recipient of any of these balls is considered a very impressive accomplishment,” Herschman said.

The U.S. Tennis Association is all about getting more people onto the court. Specialized tournaments like this is one way to do it.

It’s a lengthy process to apply to be tournament director, secure the location and do everything that is involved with such an event. The Herschmans started the procedure more than a year ago.



The USTA National Husband Wife Hard Court Championships will be at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Sept. 11-17. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

“Why choose Lake Tahoe? No. 1 it’s the facility, and No. 2, how do you beat Lake Tahoe?” Steve Leube, executive director of USTA Northern California, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “It’s about playing the sport of tennis and the atmosphere and what the area offers outside of tennis. There is a lot to do outside of tennis.”

That is what Herschman used to sell the area as well – the whole outdoor lifestyle, and indoor, too, if people are into gambling.

For the club, it means a little more exposure beyond the local members and couple hundred people who play in the July tournament.

“Zephyr Cove is a special tennis venue, being nestled in the forest with peeks of the lake. Our tennis community welcomes all levels of play, making it feel like a family. That’s why having one of the USTA’s family events here is so special,” Carolyn Wright, Zephyr Cove Tennis Club Foundation president, told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Three local couples are playing in the tournament: Holly and Ross Rittiman of Zephyr Cove, Louise and Philip Proffer of Glenbrook, and Susan Losoncy-Ruch and Lee Ruch of Carson City.

“We want to take advantage of this opportunity to play in a national tournament and to see how we do with this higher level of competition,” Holly Rittiman told *Lake Tahoe News.* “Tennis is such a great sport for the whole family and I can’t tell you just how much I love playing with my husband and children. I know that many spouses have problems on the court together … what can I say, Ross is very tolerant and forgiving.”

Actual play starts Sept. 12. There is no charge to watch the various matches. Food will be available as well as merchandise.

Squaw applies to build on-mountain coaster



Squaw Valley wants to have a coaster similar to Heavenly’s. Photo/LTN file

By Kathryn Reed

Squaw Valley wants to build a coaster similar to what Heavenly Mountain Resort has at the top of the gondola.

The Timberline Twister would be near the base of the resort between the Far East and Red Dog chairlifts in an area that is zoned for this type of use.

The resort is in the preliminary stages of getting this built. Several agencies need to approve it, including Placer County, Squaw Valley Fire Department, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Placer County Air Pollution Control District.

The dissenters are already lining up.

“Does KSL really think Tahoe needs another manmade attraction?” Tom Mooers of Sierra Watch asked in a press release. “Aren’t the mountains and the lakes attractive enough already?”

To the visiting public, the answer to the second question would be “no” – at least if Heavenly is any indication. The South Shore resort has increased its non-winter offerings on the mountain, to which people are saying yes to.

Andy Wirth, president and COO of Squaw Valley Ski Holdings, told *Lake Tahoe News*, “Unsurprisingly, Sierra Watch continues to try to mislead the community with the deliberate exaggerations and contrivances they’ve concocted.”

The ride is not a traditional roller coaster like something at Six Flags. They are closer to the ground, might have a small loop, are scenic in nature, and are not loud. They are gravity powered for the most part.

Summer recreation is a growing trend at ski resorts as they try to become year-round destinations. Activities outside of winter sports also helps them as climate change takes hold and

in normal years cuts the season short.

Heavenly’s coaster was offline this summer because it was severely damaged from the record snowfall last winter. Squaw plans to work with industry officials to help prevent the same outcome with its coaster.

Park City axes volunteer ski patrol program

By Bubba Brown, Park Record

For Michael Cook and the rest of the volunteer ski patrollers who have staffed Park City Mountain Resort over the last several decades, it’s the end of an era.

The resort recently eliminated its National Ski Patrol volunteer program, announcing the decision to both the volunteers and full-time patrollers last month in a staff email from senior ski patrol manager Bill Gray. The email, obtained by the *Park Record*, cites a desire to improve the customer experience as the reason for the change.

“As our resort has grown significantly over the past few years, and in order to deliver our vision for the guest experience, we have decided to staff and further develop our patrol program using only employees and eliminating the NSP volunteer patrol program,” the message states.

Read the whole story

Campgrounds in EDC to be renovated

Campgrounds and facilities associated with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Upper American River Project in El Dorado County will be undergoing renovations over the next few years.

Many of these facilities will be upgraded and several new features added. The work will require some sites to be temporarily or completely closed during construction.

Here are the projects/closures:

2017

- Loon Lake boat launch closed after Labor Day.
- New restrooms at Pleasant Campground were just installed.
- Upgraded trails between Loon Lake, Buck Island Reservoir and Rubicon Reservoir. Trails will be open during renovations.

2018

- Azalea Cove Campground will be closed from May to June.
- Wench Creek Campground will be closed from May to June.
- Angel Creek Day use area will be closed from July to August.
- Gerle Creek Campground will be closed after Labor Day.
- West Point Boat Launch will be closed after Labor Day.
- Yellowjacket Boat Launch will be closed after Labor Day.
- Sunset Campground will be closed for the season.

2019 (dates to be determined)

- Sunset Campground
- Northshore RV Campground
- North Union Valley Road
- Lakeshore Drive (on the north shore of Ice House Reservoir)
- Camino Cove Campground
- Wolf Creek Campground
- Slab Creek Reservoir
- Union Valley Bike Trail: Wench Creek to Yellowjacket Connector will be open for use in 2020.

This schedule will be subject to change as the project progresses. Updated information is available **online**.

Anderson wins season's first slopestyle World Cup

By Gary R. Blockus, Team USA

Olympic champion Jamie Anderson of Meyers earned the first win of the 2017-18 slopestyle snowboarding world cup season on Sept. 4 at the Winter Games NZ in Cardrona, New Zealand.

The 26-year-old Anderson, who earned the first gold medal in women's slopestyle snowboarding at the Olympic Winter Games Sochi 2014, scored 85.78 points to beat Japan's Miyabi Onitsuka and New Zealand's Zoi Sadowski Synnott, who finished second and third, respectively.

Anderson, the two-time defending champion in the biennial event at the Cardrona Alpine Resort, earned the top spot in qualifying with a 95.50 out of 100, while fellow American Hailey Langland, just 17, won her qualifying heat with 92

points, sending the Americans into the finals as the two top qualifiers.

Read the whole story

Tahoe Paradise Park reinventing itself



Michael Moughler looks on as his mother and sister kayak around Lake Baron. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

By Jessie Marchesseau

MEYERS – On a recent Friday afternoon, Michael Moughler lounged on the shore near Lake Baron while his mother and

sister paddled their kayaks in the quiet, mirror-smooth water. This is a pretty average day at Tahoe Paradise Park, and that’s part of the reason Michael loves it so much.

He comes here at least three times per week, sometimes more. He walks his dog on the trails, kayaks and swims in Lake Baron and rides his bike around the 56-acre park. He taught his mother, Jan Moughler, how to kayak on this very lake where she is now, in turn, teaching Michael’s sister.

The park is mostly used by locals, and most days it’s pretty quiet. Jan Moughler pointed out that you can still come down here and be able to get a picnic table pretty much anytime, but she also enjoys the events in the park like the concerts, car shows and dog-friendly fundraisers.

Tahoe Paradise Resort Improvement District has been implementing quite a few changes in recent years, including hosting such events. Though they weren’t able to pull together many events this summer, the board of directors has still been busy working on projects.

As for visible changes at the park, the new sign should go in at the entrance this month, the recently restored flower garden is just starting to bloom, and if you take the time to throw in a line, you might pull out one of the freshly stocked trout.

Moughler said he has noticed the trails looking cleaner than in past years and is a big fan of the board’s decision to start allowing dogs in the park a few years ago.

“I just hope that everyone respects it as much as I do,” he said of walking his dog in the park.



The newly resurfaced pickleball courts at Tahoe Paradise Park. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

Another recent, though less visible change, is the transition from a resort improvement district to a **parks and recreation district**. Though this change should not have much, if any, effect on the day-to-day operations of the park, it will allow them to take advantage of more recent laws and regulations. The paperwork is still in the pipeline, but the switch is expected to be final in January.

The board is also gearing up for a fall project which includes replacing the deck, adding ADA compliant paths to the building, beach and deck, as well as rehabilitating the sandy beach area in front of the clubhouse. At the Aug. 31 meeting, board members discussed procuring bids in the coming weeks with the intention of completing the project before winter so it will be ready for spring weddings.

Last year, the TPRID board decided to raise the fees for weddings, almost doubling the price, to an amount they deemed to be more in line with the rates of other local wedding venues. Victor Babbitt, chairman of the board, explained that part of the reason behind the price increase was an effort to make the park and its clubhouse more about the community and less about weddings.

Babbitt said he envisions things like community events, boat rentals and kids programs taking place in and around the clubhouse. If it is rented out for a wedding every weekend, it makes that virtually impossible. It also makes maintenance difficult as it can't be done during weddings and events. However, they still need the revenue from weddings, so having fewer weddings at a higher price has worked out so far.

Another source of income this summer has been fees for using the newly resurfaced tennis and pickleball courts. One of the existing courts was resurfaced as a tennis court again, and one was turned into four pickleball courts. A $3 per day fee was implemented for use of the courts which visitors put into a box designated for payments. It's strictly on the honor system, and there are enough honest people using the courts that it has brought in more than $1,300 this summer.

The third court still sits in disrepair with its future up in the air. It could become any number of things: a sand volleyball court, basketball court, bocce ball court, tennis court and raised community garden are just some of the ideas being considered.

Moughler, though not much for organized sports, told *Lake Tahoe News* he thought people would probably like the see the volleyball court put in.

Another potential source of revenue could be created by allowing a Verizon cell tower to be erected on park property. Verizon would pay a monthly rental fee for the tower. While

still in the early stages of discussion, if approved, construction of the tower could start as early as next summer.

Other recent changes include renting out the onsite house which used to be part of the compensation package for the park caretaker. The tenants have been in for nearly a year now. They pay a reasonable rent and perform only minor duties like opening and closing the gates and ensuring everyone is out by closing time.

Tahoe Paradise Park currently has three employees: two maintenance workers and one event coordinator. The board is looking at expanding the staff next spring to also include a part-time park aide, a student intern and possibly a live-in park host similar to a campground host. The host would be able to park a live-in trailer or RV in a designated spot in the park in exchange for helping visitors and performing light park maintenance duties.

The board still has numerous additional master plan items in the works, the largest of which is the installation of bathrooms. With a price tag in the hundreds of thousands, the board is still searching for grants or donations to help fund it. Other projects such as benches around the lake, restoring the large picnic area, installing a gazebo, rehabilitating the basketball and baseball areas, staining the clubhouse siding, creating a walkway through the marsh at the south end of the lake and repairing the parking lot are still on the list. Board members hope they will come to fruition in the no-to-too-far future through a combination of donations, volunteer hours, grants and park funds.

But with all these “improvements” on the horizon, Moughler said he likes the park just the way it is: “I love it here. It’s my little paradise.”

Nev. studies changes to reptile collection rules

By Ben Botkin, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Commercial collectors have plucked nearly half a million reptiles off the Nevada desert landscape in the last three decades.

There have been more than 420,000 collections since figures began being kept in 1986. The figure alarms conservationists and state wildlife officials and underscores Nevada’s uniqueness in the reptile world.

In the Silver State, commercial reptile collectors are not limited on how many or when they can take or when they can gather the scaly creatures, which eventually become someone’s pet desert iguana, chuckwalla or desert horned lizard.

Read the whole story