

# Event is all about legendary mailman of the Sierra

The 14th annual celebration of Snowshoe Thompson is March 2 from 9am-1pm at Picketts Junction.



The Snowshoe Thompson statue in Genoa. Photo/LTN file

Nina MacLeod and Snowshoe Thompson (aka Steve Hale) will lead people on a ski-snowshoe tour through Hope Valley.

Registration and rentals are available at the yurt. (From South Lake Tahoe, go straight onto Burnside Road at the junction.) A \$10 donation is requested.

This is a benefit for the Friends of Snowshoe Thompson to promote awareness about him and to maintain his statue in Genoa.

For more info, call Nina at (530) 573.8940 or Sue at (775) 315.7777.

---

# S. Tahoe man who pulled gun on bar patron going to jail

Scott Enerson of South Lake Tahoe was sentenced Feb. 25 to seven years in prison.

Enerson pulled a gun on a fellow patron at Whiskey Dick's in June 2012.

He pleaded guilty to felony assault with a firearm and the enhancement of using a firearm during the commission of a crime.

El Dorado County Assistant District Attorney Hans Uthe said Enerson and the victim presented compelling testimony at Monday's sentencing hearing.

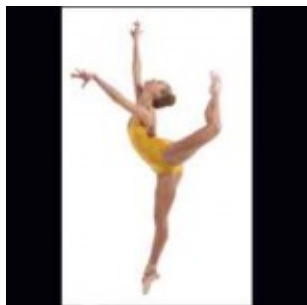
"Ultimately the crime was just far too serious for us to permit anything less than a state prison commitment," Uthe told *Lake Tahoe News*. " And, although he was fortunately not physically harmed, from what the victim, a really decent guy, said at sentencing, his life just isn't going to be the same again either, and not in a good way."

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

---

# Tahoe Youth Ballet to put on two shows

Tahoe Youth Ballet celebrates the company's fifth anniversary in the Frank Sinatra Showroom at the Cal Neva Resort on March 15-16 at 7 both nights.



The program will feature guest artists Risa Larsen of Margaret Jenkins Dance Company and Max Van Der Sterre of Alabama Ballet, alongside Tahoe Youth Ballet's nine company members and 12 apprentices. Works presented include new pieces by artistic director Christin Hanna, in addition to Stephen Straub, Deborah Lohse, and Shannon Barter, as well as a company premiere by Constantine Baecher, accompanied live by pianist Melody Fader.

The Friday Gala includes a post-performance reception in the showroom celebrating the company's artists and works. Deborah Lohse will premiere a film created with the company, along with a showing of Danielle Hankinson's photographs of the company. The Gala Celebration's proceeds and raffle ticket sales benefit Tahoe Youth Ballet's ongoing performances, programs and workshops that benefit the young dancers and the community at large.

General admission tickets for March 15 are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door; for March 16 they are \$20 in advance (\$23 at the door), students and seniors (over 65) \$15 (\$18 at the door). Buy tickets by calling 800.838.3006.

Frank Sinatra Showroom at the Cal Neva Resort is at 2 Stateline Road, Crystal Bay.

For additional information, contact Christin Hanna at (530) 613.4363 or [christin@tahoeyouthballet.com](mailto:christin@tahoeyouthballet.com).

---

# El Dorado County mid-year budget beats forecast

El Dorado County's financial situation is looking the best it has in years.

In a presentation Feb. 25 by Chief Budget Officer Laura Schwartz to the Board of Supervisors it was revealed the current projections are that the general fund revenues will exceed budget by 1 percent for a total of \$223,322,518.



General fund expenses are projected at \$212,526,135, or 96 percent of what was budgeted.

The mid-year budget projection also maintains a \$9 million reserve for economic uncertainties.

"We are looking pretty good in the current fiscal year," Schwartz told the board at the special budget workshop. "But we still need to continue spending conservatively and investing wisely in order to manage out-year shortfalls."

Despite the good news, it's not all good. The county is still looking at a shortfall of up to \$5.3 million for the fiscal year beginning July 1. But at this time top officials are not calling for cuts.

"Our track record suggests that the amount of savings departments achieve at the end of the year is greater than what we are able to forecast at mid-year," Schwartz said.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

---

# Ski report: Freeride like the pros



Don't miss the Swatch Freeride World Tour at Kirkwood on Wednesday.

Here is the Feb. 26 ski report.

– *Curtis Fong*

---

## S. Tahoe starting to work on plan for state line area



South Lake Tahoe is hosting a public workshop on the Tourist Core Area Plan formerly known as the Stateline/Ski Run Community Plan on March 20 from 6-9pm at Lake Tahoe Airport.

City planning staff will be on hand to present information on the updated plan and to gather public input.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency staff will also be present to discuss the recent adoption of the Regional Plan and its relationship to the Tourist Core Area Plan.

---

# Shore of Emerald Bay via snowshoes

**By Kathryn Reed**

EMERALD BAY STATE PARK – While it would have been nice to be able to start a fire at the campsite to warm up a bit, it was even better having the entire campground to ourselves.

As we descended to the shore of Emerald Bay, we were walking through a blizzard. Not everyone realized the bay was to our left as we snowshoed down. The visibility was that poor on Saturday.



Emerald Bay on Feb. 23 from  
Eagle Point Campground.  
Photos/Kathryn Reed

Freshies were gradually accumulating on the already snow-laden picnic tables in Eagle Point Campground.

(When we got back to South Lake Tahoe that afternoon there was no evidence it had snowed there.)

Trekking through this 100-spot campground on snowshoes is ideal. Seldom is anyone else there. The solitude and tranquility are abundant. But it's the scenery that will give you pause and reason to take a camera.

Pines and cedar loom tall. Only the crunching of snowshoes can be heard.

Early on there is an opportunity to hook up with the Rubicon Trail. We go to the right, the opposite direction. Mostly we follow the snow-covered road. At one point we meander off to get a view of the water below.

And then when we do reach the bottommost campsite, we break trail to reach the bay.

There, the water laps against the rocks. Icicles have formed on some of the vegetation. On the far side of Lake Tahoe blue sky is peaking out. A couple boats ply the water.

Looking around, it is easy to understand why in 1969 Emerald Bay was designated a National Natural Landmark. This

campground is part of the larger Emerald Bay State Park, which includes the whole bay and Vikingsholm. The state acquired the land in 1953 from Placerville lumberman Harvey West for half the amount of what it was appraised at. (The campground was closed last season for upgrades.)

The only thing that could have made the excursion better was if an eagle had soared overhead.

--

### **Getting there:**

From South Lake Tahoe, take Highway 89 north. Once you go through all the hairpin turns and are about to get on the stretch where Cascade Lake is on the left and Emerald Bay is on the right, the campground is on the right. Without snow, there is ample parking off the road.

ngg\_shortcode\_0\_placeholder (Click on photos to enlarge.)

---

# **It takes time to plan for retirement**

**By Philip Rousseaux**

The economy may be recovering, but some of the changes wrought by the Great Recession may be long-lasting. Anyone planning for retirement, no matter what their age, needs to take those changes into account.



People in their 40s and younger have some time to retool their plan, but Baby Boomers need to think with more urgency.



A lot of boomers had all of their retirement investments in the stock market and, if they didn't lose their principal, it will take some time for them to recoup their gains. Others moved their money to short-term savings, like CDs. But with

interest rates so low, they're actually losing money when you factor in inflation.

Those are the two most common mistakes people make in retirement planning – having everything in either stocks or short-term savings is a bad idea.

Space your investments so they'll come due as they're needed. Plan some that can be available in the short term, for emergencies, and others that will be available as you age.

Only 14 percent of Americans are very confident they'll have the money to live comfortably in retirement, according to a 2012 survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute.

Here are suggestions for ensuring you're part of that 14 percent:

- Don't take risks you can't afford. This is another common mistake. Don't put the bulk of your assets into anything that makes your principal vulnerable. Gambling that you're going to win big on the market, or any other investment, means you also risk losing big. A portion of your investment should have a guaranteed return.

- Seek any guidance from independent financial advisors. This has two benefits: Advisors who aren't marketing their own products have no conflicts of interest. You wouldn't go to a

commissioned salesman for advice on buying a high-tech product. Instead, you'd probably turn to a trusted friend or an independent expert source, like Consumer Reports. Take the same care with something as important as your retirement. The second benefit is that independent advisors can devise creative, innovative solutions to meet the needs of individual clients. Those working for companies like MetLife are not free to think outside the box. And that's especially important in this new, post-recession economy.

- Consider alternatives to the stock market. One of the effects of the recession is that the public realizes Wall Street is not a safe retirement plan. Even if it can get you there, it's not necessarily going to keep you there. There are a number of great, safer alternatives. One of those is fixed, indexed annuities. You loan an insurance company money and it guarantees you payments over a specified length of time. It's a contract between you and the company. Fixed-rate indexed annuities have a minimum and maximum interest payment that's linked to a common index, such as the Dow. When the Dow goes up or down, so does the interest rate, but it never goes below the guaranteed minimum or above the guaranteed maximum. Your principal is safe and you can ride an up market without the risk.

With pension plans a luxury of the past and Social Security not a guarantee for the future, whatever your age, it's important to start planning now for retirement by creating your own private pension.

The good news is, our life expectancy grows every year. It's up to you to ensure that you have a great quality of life when you decide you no longer want to work.

*Philip Rousseaux is the founder and president of Everest Wealth Management and Everest Investment Advisors money management firm.*

---

# Opinion: More to ‘husband’ and ‘wife’ than just words

By Nathaniel Frank

Earlier this month, the leak of an internal memo revealed that the *Associated Press* advised its writers “generally” to call legally married gay spouses “partner” instead of “husband” or “wife.”

The massive news agency, which sets the standard for many journalists worldwide, has it wrong; the default should be just what it is for straight married couples: “husband” and “wife.” There’s simply no rationale to use two different standards for gay and straight people who are legally married in their state.



*AP* has offered a wholly unsatisfying explanation for the usage distinction. Spokesman Paul Colford wrote last week that “husband” or “wife” “may be used in *AP* content if those involved have regularly used those terms.” Reached this week, he told me, “I expect we will

have more to say on the subject before long. We’re listening and soliciting views.”

While *AP* has provided no clear rationale for its decision, presumably it believes that because same-sex marriage remains nationally contested, it is acceptable to call legally married gay spouses “partners.” Yet marriage is almost always governed at the state level.

True, the Defense of Marriage Act, passed by Congress in 1996, says the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriages. But no one seriously thinks that DOMA “unmarries” gay spouses; it simply denies them federal benefits. What’s more, the Justice Department, along with numerous legal experts, believe DOMA is unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court may shortly declare it so. At a minimum, *AP*’s decision not to automatically use “husband” or “wife” for gay spouses in states where same-sex marriage is legal creates the perception that it is taking sides – and the losing side – in a culture war issue.

Nine states plus the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage. *AP*’s explanation suggests that it allows writers to use “husband” and “wife” if the parties involved make it clear that they use the terms, as though the editors are simply letting their subjects decide. But *AP* reporters probably don’t ask straight couples if they “regularly” use the terms; the agency, like the rest of the world, just employs the words without a second thought.

The point is, those who get married have already decided about terminology. They have chosen to become a husband or wife, and that’s what they deserve to be called. Failing to recognize this means failing to recognize what the gay marriage battle has been about: achieving equal dignity by accessing the same institutions and occupying the same symbolic spaces as everyone else.

Being “married” is, after all, a collective identity, in the same way “citizen” is. Both terms connote certain responsibilities, obligations and protections, as well as a sense of dignity and belonging for which there is no substitute. They confer equality on all those who occupy them. Using such a term fairly matters in the same way the front of the bus mattered to those banned from sitting there for no other reason than to designate them as second-class citizens.

Though *AP*'s decision has not pleased gay advocates, it shouldn't please opponents of same-sex marriage either. By suggesting that marriage is defined however each couple says it is, *AP* undercuts the power of the shared cultural definition of marriage, exactly what conservative opponents of same-sex marriage fear. It casts marriage as a subjective entity that could lose its power to delineate and help enforce our obligations to one another, a crucial part of its modern purpose.

Marriage used to function to regulate property (which included the women who were getting married), encourage and govern procreation and preserve religious and racial lines. But marriage today is far more about celebrating and enforcing people's commitments to care for one another.

While many still cite procreation as the "reason" for marriage, law and society haven't treated it that way for decades, as evidenced by granting marriage rights to those who don't, can't or won't procreate. The power of the word "husband" or "wife" is that it can help guide people's behavior during moments of weakness. Today, marriage is about personal responsibility, a cause conservatives ought to embrace.

If marriage matters at all, it should remain something that, despite its ever-evolving nature, also creates a collective identity with broadly embraced parameters. Yes, many Americans still want it defined to keep gay couples out. But with numerous polls showing majority support nationally for same-sex marriage, those Americans are losing the debate.

Equally important, the states that have legalized same-sex marriage have made their decision to make the one and only "marriage" – not some watered-down, back-of-the-bus version called "civil unions" – available to gay couples. And the individuals who have chosen to marry have made their decision to become husbands and wives. *AP*'s job is to reflect this

reality without hesitation. Anything else is editorializing.

*Nathaniel Frank is visiting scholar at Columbia's Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.*

---

## **Glenbrook area controlled burn to be reignited**

U.S. Forest Service fuels management crews will continue prescribed fire operations above Glenbrook on Feb. 26.



Crews expect to burn approximately 20 acres per day, weather permitting. Operations will continue through the week as conditions allow.

Residents and visitors of the Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson City and Reno can expect to see smoke from these prescribed fire project areas. Smoke may be visible on highways 50 and 28.

The Forest Service strives to minimize the impacts of smoke on local communities. Smoke-sensitive residents should consider staying indoors and keeping doors, windows and outside vents closed.

To directly receive prescribed fire updates, send an email to [pa\\_ltbtmu@fs.fed.us](mailto:pa_ltbtmu@fs.fed.us).

Forest Service staff will post road signs around areas

affected by prescribed fire, and update the local fire information line at (530) 543.2600, No. 6.