

# MOON SHINE INKO

11 November – 8 December 2016  
Vintage 14, Nip 12  
Truckee/North Lake Tahoe  
Independent Newspaper • Priceless

ARTIST  
LOFTS

RAIL-  
ROAD

ROADS

STATE  
FUNDING

MOVIE  
THEATER

PERMITS

LAW-  
SUITS

Railyard

...12

MIKE ENGLISH 11.16

ON TRAK  
?

HOLIDAY  
HANDBOOK

...inside





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#CBC TUNES

<b>FRIDAY 11/11</b>	<b>Midnight North</b> ft. <b>Grahame Lesh</b> <b>FREE!</b> 9 pm / RED ROOM
<b>SATURDAY 11/12</b>	<b>No Deal</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / RED ROOM
<b>SUNDAY 11/13</b>	<b>The New Mastersounds &amp; Turkuaz</b> + After Party w/ <b>Mojo Green</b> <b>\$22 ADV* \$25 DOS*</b> 9 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>SATURDAY 11/19</b>	<b>Diarrhea Planet</b> w/ <b>Lovely Bad Things</b> + After Party w/ <b>Bad Weather Friends</b> <b>\$15 ADV* \$18 DOS*</b> 9 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>SUNDAY 11/20</b>	<b>The Marcus King Band</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / RED ROOM
<b>WEDNESDAY 11/23</b>	<b>"A Benefit for Sam Rick"</b> ft. <b>The Floozies</b> w/ <b>TBA</b> <b>\$18 ADV* \$25 DOS*</b> 10 pm / Doors 9 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>FRIDAY 11/25</b>	<b>"Blues/Rock Legend" Tinsley Ellis</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / RED ROOM
<b>SATURDAY 11/26</b>	<b>"Locals Last Waltz"</b> ft. <b>Jelly Bread &amp; Friends</b> + After Party w/ <b>GrooveSession</b> <b>\$12 ADV* \$15 DOS*</b> 9 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>FRIDAY 12/2</b>	<b>Polyrhythmics</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>SATURDAY 12/10</b>	<b>The Lique</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / RED ROOM
<b>FRIDAY 12/16</b>	<b>Gift of Gab (Blackalicious)</b> w/ <b>Landon Wordswell &amp; Mostafa</b> + After Party <b>TBA</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / CROWN ROOM
<b>SATURDAY 12/17</b>	<b>Dirty Revival</b> <b>FREE!</b> 10 pm / RED ROOM
<b>WEDNESDAY 12/28</b>	<b>Leftover Salmon</b> w/ <b>Tea Leaf Green</b> + After Party w/ <b>Dusty Green Bones</b> <b>\$30 TIX*</b> / 9 pm / CROWN ROOM

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# Green



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**1987** Prevented the development of a Kmart store in Truckee.

**1998** Helped pass an ordinance keeping big-box stores out of Truckee.

**2002 & 2004** Stopped two proposals for water mining in Coldstream Canyon.

**2003** First in California to establish transfer fees on new development, to fund open space & restoration.

**2006** Successfully negotiated the Martis Valley Community Plan to spare the Valley from massive development. Applied transfer fees to fund open space, habitat restoration & future workforce housing projects.

**2007** Helped preserve Waddle Ranch, 1,462 acres in Martis Valley with our conservation partners.

**2011** Preserved McGlashan Springs, incl. old growth cedar groves & historic charcoal kilns on 160 acres.

**2012** Collaborated with conservation partners to preserve 3,000 acres at Royal Gorge on Donner Summit.

**2013** Finalized planning and permitting for Trout Creek Pocket Park in Downtown Truckee.

**2014** Negotiated a 1% real-estate tax transfer fee, reduction of housing units & commercial square footage for the future Coldstream Housing project.

**2015** Successfully negotiated the preservation of 20 acres of open space at Joerger Ranch.

**2016** Constructed the Trout Creek Pocket Park in Historic Downtown Truckee.

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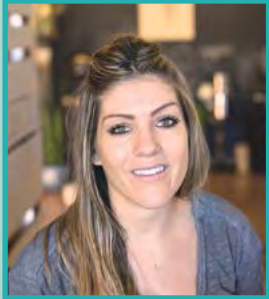


# Do Tell!

## Visions of the Railyard

For the past 12 years, the Truckee Railyard project has gone through its fair share of tribulations in order to arrive at a point at which the (revised) master plan was fully approved this year. With the demolition of an existing building last month and new construction slated to start in 2017, the vision is finally becoming a reality. *Moonshine Ink* wants to know — what type of new business in the Railyard do readers feel would best serve our community? To read more about the Railyard Project and its long and windy road, visit p.12.

INTERVIEWS & PHOTOS BY JEREMY JENSEN/MOONSHINE INK



**MEGAN KEYES, Truckee**  
Hairstylist

I think I would really like the idea of another Tahoe Art Haus, something that's similar where they can do other events, and doesn't just resemble a Century Theaters.



**CAMERON TICHERICH, Truckee**  
Bike mechanic

I thought there was supposed to be a new climbing gym put in that part of town, so something along the lines of recreation would be great.



**ERIN WILKINSON, Truckee**  
Owner Tahoe University

Apple store! That's what I want.



**SCOTT WILLERS, Tahoe City**  
Realtor

See, I live in Tahoe City, so to me it seems like Truckee has a lot. I would say additional affordable family-style restaurants that cater to locals as well as the tourist community.



**GRANT BARTA, Truckee**  
Photography printing

We definitely need a movie theater in town. It'd be nice to have something close by instead of driving to Reno all the time.

# MONTHLY MIXERS

**NEXT: NOV. 17 | 5-7 P.M.**  
Northstar Joint Mixer  
w/Truckee Chamber  
Tavern 6330, Northstar, CA

**NEXT: DEC. 9 | 5-7 P.M.**  
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Tahoe City, CA

Bring a can of food for entry

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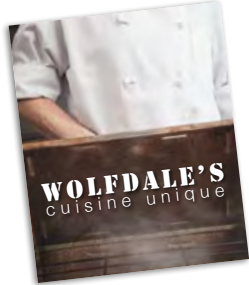


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## HOT STORIES FROM MOONSHINEINK.COM

Moonshine Ink's email list features stories that are published only online. Sign up by visiting [moonshineink.com/subscribe](http://moonshineink.com/subscribe).

### Election Frenzy

By the time you read this, the maelstrom of the 2016 election will have passed. At the local level, we enjoyed publishing election letters via our newsletter, and are pleased our efforts were recognized. "Regardless of political persuasion, you have helped facilitate constructive dialogue about issues and candidates that is essential to a functioning democracy," wrote Katilin Backlund via email.



LA VOTA: We thank you for participating in the democratic process.

### Contest Winners

Thank you to those that participated in our online contest to win tickets to the *Powder* magazine movie on skiing in national parks. Out of around a dozen entrants, Jordan Basile and Eric Yates took the prize and two tickets. We hope you make it to Yosemite!



It Will Be MONUMENTAL

### Police Logs

Intoxicated men took to biting and scratching one another, a rogue BB gun wielder shot up a few car windows, some dudes got into a fight at a wedding, a man was riding his bike around naked, an ex-boyfriend stole his ex-girlfriend's purse, and more. Does it seem guys are doing everything wrong around here?

[READ ONLINE IN THE NEWS SECTION](#)



## CHECK OUT OUR LATEST 'BOOKS, TWEETS & 'GRAMS

Discover breaking news, generous giveaways, and behind-the-scenes peeks at the Moonshine process.

### Rafting is Life

Some intrepid rafters floated by the office on a chilly October day, so we grabbed a video and it reached 3.2k people on the internet super-highway. Good work, gents!



[VIEW AT FACEBOOK.COM/  
TAHOEMOONSHINEINK](http://VIEW AT FACEBOOK.COM/TAHOEMOONSHINEINK)



HELLO, SHORE! Every day is raft day.

### Rainbow Madness

Remember the crazy run we had in October with snow, rain, wind, waves, and fire? Our photog Jeremy Jensen was on the scene, and captured this soulful rainbow, netting us 115 likes.



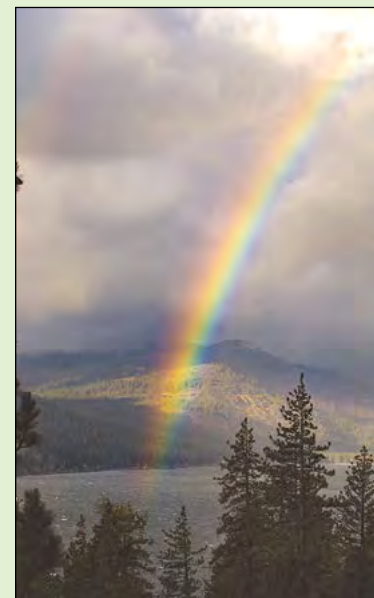
[VIEW OUR INSTAGRAM @MOONSHINEINK](http://VIEW OUR INSTAGRAM @MOONSHINEINK)

### #readmoretwitter

Our Twitter account is looking a little lonely these days, so head on over and read quick-hit news bursts like Truckee's recent \$10 million housing grant, the new Tahoe University, updates on water conservation, and so much more.



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MOODY: The rainbow and the storm.

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# The Perils and Promise of Print

Scanning for articles that relay some optimism in the world of print media is a bit of a fool's errand. *A Rough Year for News Magazines*, *Decline of Newspapers*, and *The Death of Print Media* are but a few of many blues-inspiring headlines. But then I suppose *Print Media in India Records 5.8% Growth in 2014-15*, brings the hope back.



**EDITORS NOTE**  
By Dave Zook

But is it that bad?

Maybe. In my college years as an undergrad in the early-to-mid 2000s, my professors waxed prophetic about how the internet could obliterate the honorable journalism trade, to be replaced with an overgrown blob of cheaply produced misinformation. It'd hard to say that didn't happen to some extent.

Then the recession came in 2008 and advertising dollars tanked, with magazines and newspapers crumbling left and right. I remember taking a writing class in Salt Lake City in 2009, where two editors from a regional magazine came in for a guest presentation, only to announce the magazine had folded that very day, and they were out of their jobs.

But I never saw the industry as *dying*. Those college professors would do anything to get

us students pumped to be reporters and those editors sat in a room for hours and answered our questions.

And how 'bout the paper you hold in your hand? A free (priceless!) local independent newspaper that's made it through the recession, a four-year span of crummy winters, and low tourism revenue. While it certainly is troubling that so many young people seem fine squinting into smartphones to read tweets to get the news, I simply

believe holding a newspaper is still relevant. Journalism documents the state of our times, continues to hold the decision makers accountable, and pushes people to think.

At *Moonshine*, we largely have our tireless leader Mayumi to thank for keeping the paper afloat. This month, she wrestled one of the biggest developments, the Truckee Railyard project (p. 12), into digestible sections so our community can get a better sense of what may be coming.

But of course, print media is a collaborative effort with designers, photographers, writers, and the like coming together to put words and pictures on paper and get it into interested hands. Most importantly, it's the reader that makes it happen, and without that, we *would* certainly die. So thanks Tahoe, for keeping the dream alive. ☺

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What's our forecast for this winter? (See Holiday Handbook, p. 10 for more.)

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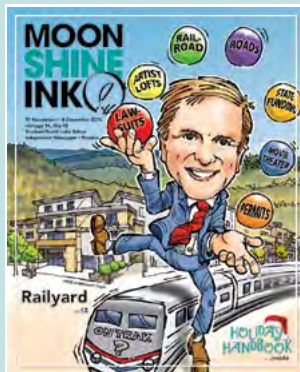
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### ON THE COVER

#### ON TRACK?

**ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATION** | The field of infill redevelopment is not for the "faint of heart," Rick Holliday says, but "[the Railyard] is by far the most complex development I've ever worked with." See p. 12.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST** | Mike English was partner and creative director at a Bay Area agency/design firm before relocating to Truckee in 2011. He donates his time and talent to marketing and design work for Truckee Community Theater and nonprofits in the Bay Area.



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Moonshine Ink

V I N T A G E 1 4 | N I P 1 2



FEATURES

NEWS

12 | On Track and at Front of the Pack, Truckee Railyard Finally Moves Forward

The Truckee Railyard has required an impressive juggling act and dogged persistence on the part of Holliday Development for more than a decade. This *Moonshine Ink* feature delves into the multifaceted layers, uncovering a rich story of clever negotiations, carefully built alliances, unusual solutions, and sheer determination.

Insert | Holiday Handbook

The holidays are here and we want to help. In our annual guide, we offer up some tasty drink recipes, a gift guide flowchart, boat loads of info about the upcoming winter season, and more. Happy Holidays, Tahoe!

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See Holiday Handbook

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Libra artist

CONTRIBUTORS



Growing up in Rocklin, Calif., **JULIE STANLEY** spent a good deal of her childhood in the Truckee/Tahoe area. She spent winters skiing at Boreal and Sugar Bowl, and summers as a whitewater raft guide. Now here full time, she's the resident *Moonshine* peddler as our sales representative.



After freelancing for one year at *Moonshine*, then being on staff for two, **DAVE ZOOK** has decided, in a bittersweet move, to pursue other writing and snow-related endeavors (but definitely isn't leaving Tahoe!). He thanks his talented cohorts for teaching him a ton about writing, the world of Tahoe, and hyphens vs. em dashes. Check out his article on mental training on p. 32.



**MATT HARDY** grew up in the outdoor mecca of Lake Tahoe. He has been immersed in the outdoors since early childhood, inspiring a life dedicated to the exploration of the world's most unique places. Over the years he has become known for his tremendous sense of adventure, creativity, and drive. Read his story *Capturing Australia* on p. 28



**ANDREA BARTUNEK** is a comedian, visual artist, and writer originally from Yonkers, N.Y. After receiving a BFA in sculpture from Boston University, she spent time working in art museums in New York City. As a long time snowboarder she was called to the Sierra and planned to stay only "one winter." Par usual, she's still here! Read her Book! p. 22 of the Holiday Handbook.

*Moonshine Ink* is published monthly and hits the streets on the second Friday of each month. Opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed are those of authors and do not necessarily reflect those of *Moonshine Ink* staff or advertisers. Please contact us for advertising information at [sales@moonshineink.com](mailto:sales@moonshineink.com). Subscriptions are available for \$25/year. Sign up online at [moonshineink.com/subscribe](http://moonshineink.com/subscribe). Printed with soy inks on recycled paper. Stay up to date online at [moonshineink.com](http://moonshineink.com).

Issue	Deadline
9 Dec – 12 Jan	29 Nov
13 Jan – 9 Feb	3 Jan
10 Feb – 9 Mar	31 jan

These are the drop-dead deadlines. However, if you want your submission considered, please try to send it in as early as possible and contact us for submission guidelines at [info@moonshineink.com](mailto:info@moonshineink.com).  
10137 Riverside Dr., Truckee CA 96161  
(530) 587-3607 ph | (530) 587-3635 fax



## READERS REFLECT

Submit letters to [editors@moonshineink.com](mailto:editors@moonshineink.com).

In response to NEWS BRIEFS |  
October 14 – November 10, 2016

### Short-Term Rental Compliance, Great Return on Investment

It was no surprise that Host Compliance discovered that 42 percent of the short-term rentals in Truckee are not collecting TOT taxes. The amount not being collected is about \$2 million per year. That is a lot of money, and if you think about the fact that over the last four years VRBO, Airbnb, etc. have been very active, the total could be more than \$8 million. That pays for a lot of services. Also, there probably are a lot of non-compliance issues such as health and safety. Too many occupants, too many cars, and too much noise. Eventually, we will have to deal with it like Mammoth has. All units must be registered and comply with the rental ordinance. Surely the town can afford a full-time staff member to address the issue. If he or she collected \$2 million per year, that would be an excellent return on the cost of a salary. They could also handle compliance.

~ Bob Yoder, Truckee, via online

### In response to The Multiplying Makers Market

#### Experience the Lake Tahoe School Makerspace

Great article, Laura! Thank you, Moonshine! The Lake Tahoe School MakerSpace is now in its third year of existence, and prospective parents who have an interest in our school's overarching project-based, learning-by-doing models have two opportunities to learn more at our school's fall open house events: Nov. 12 in Incline Village, and Dec. 6 at an informational session in South Reno. RSVP and learn more at [tinyurl.com/LTSOpenHouseRSVP](http://tinyurl.com/LTSOpenHouseRSVP).

Our MakerSpace sprang originally from the creative genius of Tech Director Russ Bradford, but has been propelled forward by a collective desire at Lake Tahoe School — within our parent and student population as well as within the ranks of our forward-thinking teaching faculty and administration — to tap into the incredible potential of project-based learning. You see this type of learning happening in practically every classroom at Lake Tahoe School, but it manifests itself most intensely — and for obvious reasons — in our MakerSpace.

Our mission statement at Lake Tahoe School speaks to the overriding importance of making teaching and learning more relevant to the world we inhabit — to equipping our students with the refined interpersonal and critical thinking 21st-century skill sets they will need to assume leadership roles in high school, college, and the work world beyond. Sooner or later, students today will be competing in a global economy that places a premium on their ability to engage in creative, collaborative endeavors that demand robust communication and critical thinking skills as well as an ability to think outside of the box. All of our students at Lake Tahoe School — Pre-K through 8th grade — are constantly learning by doing, in our MakerSpace and beyond. As a result, the engagement level of our students is higher than I have seen in any school environment where I have worked.

~ Peyton Jobe, Incline Village, via online

See READERS REFLECT p. 10

# The Evolution of Tahoe City — Progress for North Lake Tahoe



**MY SHOT**  
By Sandy Evans Hall

From sidewalks to new lodging development, the evolution of Tahoe City has not been an overnight affair. It has been a long, slow, and often challenging process for many committed citizens, organizations, and agencies.

Let's take a little trip back in time to explore the intentions that have led us on this path. In the mid-1990s, a group of community-minded people got together to bring in a team of consultants to analyze the competitive gap between North Lake Tahoe and other resort communities in the West. This team outlined some very measurable competitive disadvantages that the area faced and proposed a strategy to catch up. This resulted in the creation of the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association in 1996 and the passage of an additional 2 percent of Transient Occupant Tax (TOT) to help pay for the services and amenities identified.

In 1997, many of these same people came up with the idea of changing the mud holes in front of businesses into sidewalks, complete with curbs, parking, and landscaping. The vision of this group went beyond having safer and more convenient navigation for pedestrians. They were thinking much farther into the future and believed that public infrastructure investment would lead to private investment by local business owners and developers.

Fast forward to 2012, and in spite of the public investment in sidewalks, additional Common Beach improvements, the Lakeside Trail, and more, there was still no significant private investment as had been envisioned. A glimmer of hope appeared in the drafting of a new Regional Plan from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency that would provide some incentive to private investors in order to achieve environmental gains. It was passed on Dec. 12, 2012, opening the doors for revising the county area and community plans around the lake.

Also in 2012, approximately 45 acres serving as the Tahoe City Golf Course became available to purchase. A consortium including the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, Placer County, and the Truckee Tahoe Airport

District joined the Tahoe City Public Utility District in raising the \$4.7 million necessary to purchase the land. As stated in the memorandum of understanding between the funding partners, the "NLTRA invests funds to provide infrastructure and to promote the economic vitality and redevelopment of the area."

A further goal stated in the memorandum for NLTRA and Placer County was to "provide a potential site for the construction of visitor amenity capital improvements within walking distance of the downtown Tahoe City businesses, services, and recreational amenities."

We recognized that with the new regional plan there were opportunities to utilize this 45-acre parcel for the benefit of properties in the commercial core area of Tahoe City such as providing increased density, coverage, and parking via transfer of development rights. To recognize these assets, changes to the area plans being drafted by Placer County were required. Negotiations to bring only the land under the golf course clubhouse into the town center took many meetings and resulted in a deed restriction on the remainder of the golf course land in perpetuity, restricting it to recreational use.

In addition to the regional plan incentives, Placer County adopted an economic incentive plan that further encouraged development through financing of parking and tourist accommodation units.

And that brings us to the present moment where the Placer County Area Plan and the proposed Tahoe City Lodge are completing their environmental review process and moving toward adoption. This new hotel, made possible by using some of the development rights from the golf course property, represents a start of the private investment that was envisioned but not realized for the last 40 years. Because of the thoughtful contribution of many citizens through a multitude of meetings, I believe that the arduous process of evolving to this point in time has been worth the effort. The intentions of many to improve the vitality in the core of this small community stand to reach fruition and will reverberate through the North Lake Tahoe region for decades to come.

~ Sandy Evans Hall is CEO of the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association.



Moonshine Ink's Opinion Pages are the community's place to spout off. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of Moonshine Ink. Letters require full names and towns and are limited to 200 words. My Shots are limited to 600 words and must be reserved ahead of time. Email [editors@moonshineink.com](mailto:editors@moonshineink.com) to submit your letter or My Shot.



# Let's Insist on a Public Art Master Plan



**MY SHOT**  
By Troy Corliss

So glad to see the question of "why we need a public art plan" popping up more and more in community discussion. In her recent editorial on the ant sculptures (*Giant Ant Sculptures Invade Truckee*, a My Shot published in October), Linda Lindsay touched on a very important component contained within every public art master plan, which is to provide a mechanism for community involvement.

Every public art master plan asks a series of questions that helps to define a structure for incorporating artwork into public spaces. The art plan purposefully falls short of defining specific artworks (we want to leave that task to the artists), yet it creates a holistic view of what art in public places means to us as a community. In essence, it is a topo map for our cultural/physical landscape. Every public art plan is unique and specific to its community, however,

**I LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNISTIC APPROACH THAT'S RESULTED IN THE LAST FEW ARTWORKS GOING UP AROUND TOWN AS SMALL BABY STEPS FORWARD. BUT, I AM ALSO REMINDED OF THE MANY MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.**

each one contains a few key elements:

- Goals and community priorities
- Locations and opportunities for public art
- Potential funding sources and collaborative funding mechanisms
- Program structure and staffing requirements
- Benchmarks and implementation milestones
- Policies and procedures concerning community involvement, artist selection, and collection management

For the last 25 years my career has focused on the design and creation of large-scale public art. I have worked with more than 60 public art agencies nationally, ranging from the largest and most well-recognized to those in very small rural communities. Although the demographics and the cultural objectives vary within each community, there are two essential ingredients underlying every well functioning public art plan:

1) There is a concentrated group of citizens who advocate, support, and foster the inclusion of art in public places.

2) The governing body that has the authority to incorporate and implement public art embraces and owns the art plan. In our case, this would be the Town of Truckee.

We have room to grow on both fronts.

I personally like Matt Parkhurst's ant sculptures, however, let's not lose sight of the fact that while we are talking about "what is and what should never be," we (collectively) have never insisted on a plan for placing artwork. We could talk about the details of one project or another, but in doing so we are really missing the larger issue, which is that there is no framework or process for placing public artworks, or even having this discussion.

I look at the opportunistic approach that's resulted in the last few artworks going up around town as small baby steps forward. But, I am also reminded of the many missed opportunities that are passing us by because we do not have a vision, or a well-defined plan for bringing artwork into our community. Shouldn't we as engaged citizens insist on a master plan for incorporating artwork into our public spaces and then step forward to help make it happen?

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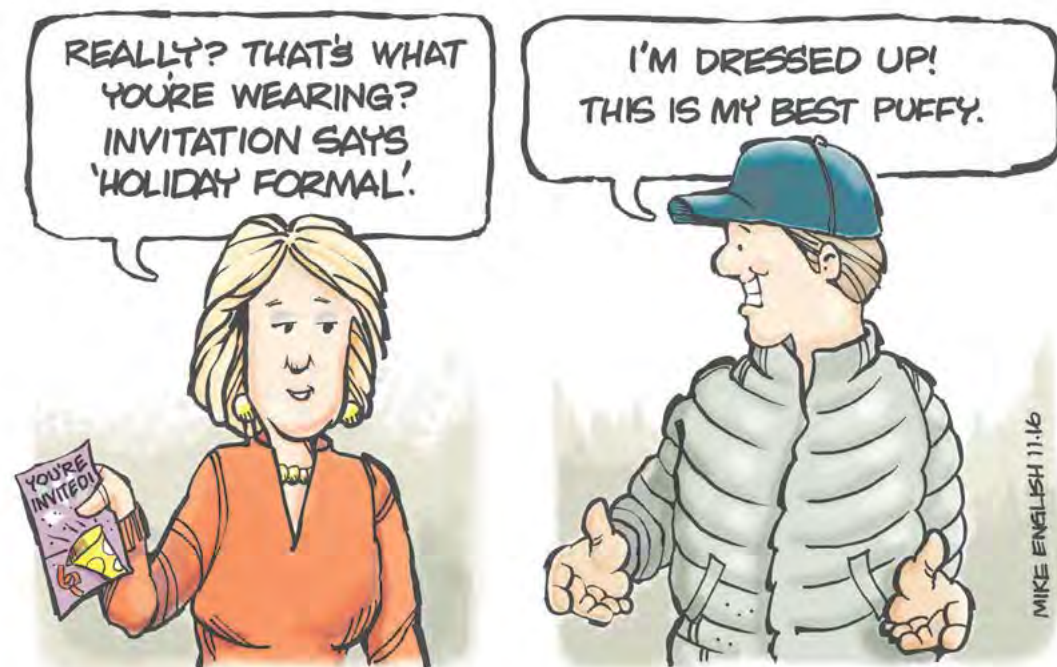
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## SHINE ON ...Tahoe Dresses Up



### READERS REFLECT from p. 8

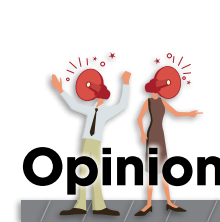
#### In response to HOUSING CRISIS | The Missing Middle

##### Crisis Overstated?

I'm not an expert on housing affordability, but checked a few online housing affordability calculators to check how much one could afford with the Placer County moderate-income figure of \$91,300 noted in the article. Using the Zillow, CNN Money, and NerdWallet affordability

calculators, assuming the Placer County moderate-income figure, and a zero down payment, the calculators produce figures ranging from \$452,000 to \$482,000. Adding a reasonable down payment pushes the figure much higher. While this won't buy the fanciest house in town, one can easily buy a very nice 3-bedroom, 2-bath house and live in paradise. Perhaps the crisis is overstated?

~ Truckee Dood, Truckee



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I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over.  
Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center.

~ Kurt Vonnegut

## Connected Tahoe Project Aims to Expand Broadband Internet in Basin

When it comes to having access to broadband internet, in this day and age it's absolutely essential in order for the Tahoe Basin to flourish. Unfortunately for the Tahoe Basin, there are still pockets all around the lake that are either unserved or underserved.

These underserved areas have download speeds under 6 Mbps and 1.5 Mbps upload speed, as per the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) definition of minimum speeds. To put things into context, the average broadband speeds in San Francisco are 75.92 Mbps down and 25.70 Mbps up. This deficiency presents a huge problem for the region because without access to



**MY SHOT**  
By Chris Fajkos

broadband internet our local businesses, schools, hospitals, and local government agencies are placed at a disadvantage, jeopardizing economic development, public safety, and overall regional prosperity.

The dangers that come with not having access to broadband internet are extensive and all facets of our society are impacted. Public safety is placed at risk when they are unable to share critical emergency management information quickly and securely. Schools suffer because teachers and students are unable to use the online resources they need. Hospitals and medical offices require fast and secure access to broadband in order to send and receive medical

files and other medical information. Economic growth slows to a crawl as local businesses struggle to remain competitive if their point-of-sale swipers don't work.

Understanding that a "digital divide" exists in the Basin, the Tahoe Prosperity Center applied for and received a grant from the CPUC to help carry out their Connected Tahoe Project. The funds received from CPUC's California Advanced Services Fund went toward the collection of local internet speed data, assisting broadband infrastructure providers with applying for CPUC grants, and convening with applicable stakeholders to identify opportunities for broadband expansion in the Tahoe Basin.

The information obtained from Tahoe Prosperity

Center's initial work painted a disappointing picture for the region in terms of broadband coverage and service. Speed test results that were completed by Basin residents clearly identified numerous problem areas, indicating that the problem is Basin-wide.

The next step in the Connected Tahoe Project will aim to facilitate broadband infrastructure projects in those problem areas. This will be done, primarily, by working with the CPUC to identify Internet Service Providers (ISPs) that are ready, able, and willing to provide infrastructure, as well as through TPC's push for a Basin-wide "dig once policy."

The dig once policy essentially means that when there's a public improvement project happening somewhere in the

Basin, such as a bike path improvement; then conduit for broadband fiber would be included in the project. This way, there is no need to dig the same area up again later to install conduit.

The Tahoe Prosperity Center is the only organization focused on this issue for the benefit of Tahoe's residents and businesses, and will stay focused on our Connected Tahoe Project. We hope that Basin residents continue to speak up and draw attention to this issue.

~ Chris Fajkos is the project manager for the Tahoe Prosperity Center. He resides in Truckee with his wife Carlynnne, 1-year-old daughter Hazel, and English bulldog Gwen.



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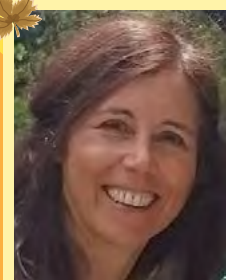


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# On Track and at the Front of the Pack

## Truckee Railyard Finally Moves Forward



**HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW:** Union Pacific will be removing the railroad tracks above to make way for a new extension of Donner Pass Road, slated to happen in 2017. Photo by Jeremy Jensen/Moonshine Ink

The Truckee Railyard project heralds a lot of firsts. It's the first time the Town of Truckee has partnered this closely with a developer. Likely the first time a developer convinced Union Pacific to accept commercial development within a balloon track. The first time this site will diverge from a history of industrial uses. The first Truckee project for Holliday Development, which has been building mix-used communities in the Bay Area for more than 20 years.

While exciting, being out in front of the pack means any headwind hits you straight-on. After spending 12 years and counting on the Truckee Railyard, owner and developer Rick Holliday acutely feels the pain of being a pioneer. In addition to the pocketful of firsts, the site offers up issues of environmental cleanup, significant infrastructure updates, airplane flight paths overhead, a railroad running through, and a heap of expectations from the Town.

Truckee Development Associates, LLC (led by Holliday Development) is in charge of the Railyard Project. The parent company specializes in public-private partnerships and sustainable infill projects, and so is no stranger to complicated projects. Overall, the field of infill redevelopment is not for the "faint of heart," Holliday says, but "[the Railyard] is by far the most complex development I've ever worked with."

The biggest hurdles weren't necessarily related to the project being a forerunner, but rather just dumb luck (or lack thereof). As the original Railyard Master Plan moved through the Town of Truckee

approval process from 2006 to 2009, the country dove into the Great Recession. Then in 2011, when the project would normally have been moving forward, a key piece for funding the required massive infrastructure updates disappeared as California dissolved its redevelopment agencies.

Despite the many setbacks, it looks like the rubber is about to meet the road. A revised master plan was approved in September, the first building permit was successfully obtained in October, and the project is expected to break ground next spring. The development agreement, slated to go before the Town Planning Commission in December, will formalize arrangements for the downtown main street roundabout, the highly anticipated theater, the affordable housing plan, streetscape details, and more.

Holliday, who holds an undergraduate degree in urban policy and a masters degree in city and regional planning, both from the University of California, Berkeley, maintains his dedication to the project. "It's a canvas in terms of a piece of land," he said.

Truth be told, Holliday is less a painter than a circus performer, juggling an impressive number of elements for more than a decade to move the project forward. This *Moonshine Ink* feature delves into these multifaceted layers, uncovering a rich story of clever negotiations, carefully built alliances, unusual solutions, and sheer determination.

~ Mayumi Elegado

## Grand Plans to Extend a Downtown

The Town of Truckee has long eyed the rail yard as an opportunity to extend the downtown commercial core and address key issues in the area. With a limited amount of flat land available due to the topography of the Truckee River Valley, the redevelopment of the rail yard was seen as an opportunity to use land efficiently and reinvest in the downtown. This vision led to a unique situation where developer and jurisdiction ended up marching in lockstep.

Things started moving forward when the Town was awarded a \$350,000 planning grant from California's Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program in 2002, which recognized that the Truckee rail yard was a prime example of infill development and would help thoughtfully answer the state's population pressures.

The Railyard will "bring a variety of benefits to the town," said then-town council member Richard Anderson in 2009. "It essentially transforms what is a blighted area into an organic extension of our downtown."

One of the main hold-ups to the project was the fact that Union Pacific owned most of the land. Circa 2003, the railroad company realized there was value to the redevelopment plans and sold a significant portion of the rail yard site to Holliday Development in 2004.

From the time of incorporation, the Town identified that key infrastructure issues in downtown were intertwined with the Railyard project: Trout Creek's restoration,

>>>



**SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT:** In 2012/13, Holliday Development bought and redeveloped this downtown Truckee building, as a demonstration site for their vision of the Railyard as a mixed-use project. Photo by Jeremy Jensen/Moonshine Ink



>>> parking and circulation concerns, and the railroad site's physical cleanup. Thus, when Holliday Development came onto the scene, the Town immediately leveraged the opportunity to address these problems and entered into a joint venture with the developer. For example, a top priority was the poorly functioning T-intersection of Glenshire Drive with Donner Pass Road, so ambitious plans were made to realign the streets through the site.

"It was a cooperative effort different than anything we've ever done before," said Tony Lashbrook, Truckee town manager.

Even with the partnership, the plans took some left turns. In 2011, California dissolved its redevelopment agencies, ending a massive 60-year-old multibillion-dollar program intended to combat blight. The rail yard was a perfect candidate for redevelopment and Holliday believed that the agencies' funds were critical to financing the needed infrastructure improvements. The dissolution of the program "was kinda like being hit by a missile," Holliday said. He took the problem to Governor Jerry Brown, who set out to find other state money. That effort led to a program that serendipitously came into being at about the same moment the redevelopment agencies were being eradicated.

The Railyard secured \$12.5 million in state grant commitments which came in the form of cap-and-trade dollars, a program that was established in late 2011 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The argument went that affordable, infill, higher-density development minimizes vehicle miles traveled. The Town earmarked an additional \$1.5 million in economic development funds. The infrastructure was back on track.

Infrastructure improvements are the first phase of the project and are slated to break ground next spring. The Phase I Infrastructure Plan includes building the railroad's new maintenance building, extending Church Street across Donner Pass Road with a roundabout and building out Donner Pass Road further east, cleaning up extra railroad track, building sidewalks, creating parking, and more. An additional 635 public parking spots are planned for the Railyard, as compared to a current inventory of 486 downtown public spaces regulated by the Town. The Town has earmarked further capital budget funds (collected from traffic impact fees) for several of the intersections to the tune of \$6 million; the forthcoming developer agreement will formalize the details.

These improvements will create the "first grid of infrastructure," said Jason Hansford, the Truckee Railyard project manager. The goal is to finish Phase I by the end of next summer, which will result in four developable parcels and will get the project started in earnest. "It's a series of dominoes," Hansford said. "Once one part goes in, the rest will go down pretty easily."

After more than 20 years of planning, the Railyard's considerable contributions to helping establish a walkable and vibrant downtown are nearing fruition. "The Truckee Railyard project is a perfect example of the Truckee way of making things happen, of overcoming obstacles and getting to yes," then-town council member Josh Susman said in a 2009 *Moonshine Ink* article.

~ Mayumi Elegado

## Strong Business Connection

The Truckee Railyard development seeks to complement the existing, 150-year-old downtown core by introducing a movie theater, grocery store, brew pub, and a mixed-use retail and commercial space called the Railhouse Building. Holliday Development has been selective in looking for partners to fill these spaces, all in an effort to create a strong connection between the downtown core and the new Railyard neighborhood.

However, Holliday didn't have to look far in selecting these vendors, all of which are successful business owners with insight to the community's needs and wants.

In the spring of 2015, Steven and Melissa Siig, owners of Tahoe Art Haus & Cinema, got wind of the Truckee Railyard development's theater element and worried about its impact on their Tahoe City theater. At the time, Rick Holliday was talking to large names like Cinemax to fill the space with an eight-screen theater. Steven, who goes by Siig, cold-called Rick Holliday and explained not only the concerns for his own business, but also why he and his wife would be the right people for the Truckee job.

"We know what the community wants," Siig said when explaining the diverse programming of the Art Haus, a mom-and-pop hall that offers everything from block-buster hits and ski movie premieres to independent films, musical concerts, and performing arts events.

The theater element is especially integral to the development's success because of a community benefit aspect embedded in the project. The Town is requiring that the Railyard show its investment in the residents of Truckee and dedication to the project through the compilation of a downtown core stimulator. Enter the cinema.

Currently the Siigs, who are negotiating with Holliday, are working on a footprint for a three-room facility at the Railyard. The plan includes one large screen and two smaller ones with a plan for the larger of the three rooms

to have accordion-style seating that allows the space to open easily for A-list performing art shows or live music.

Located directly next



**LAYER CAKE:** The Railhouse building is a 100,000 square foot mixed-used space being developed by Holliday using a tiered style of architecture to lessen the feel of a multi-story building. Courtesy image

Andy and Alicia plan to work closely with the Siigs at the Art Haus, selling their beer and food at the theater. The Siigs would like to see dinner-and-a-movie specials with the brewery.

In addition to the brewery experience, and further in the future, the Barrs plan to rent out the second floor of the building as office space and additional street level space to retailers.

### NEW GROCERY STORE

Douglas Wiele of Foothill Partners, a retail property owner/developer based in El Dorado Hills, has signed a letter of intent with Holliday Development to purchase a block of land to build a Nugget Market inside the Railyard balloon track. Wiele's specialty is the development and ownership of infill and neighborhood retail environments.

Wiele, who has worked with Nugget in the past, is passionate about the philosophy that Truckee's downtown should have more outlets for everyday essentials. "Currently, daily-needs shopping is drawing people away from downtown," Wiele said. "The culture suffers when these merchants are out of downtown."

Holliday Development and Foothill Partners selected the Sacramento-based Nugget chain because it's been a family-owned operation since opening in 1926, and the fact that it ranks on *Forbes* top 100 best companies to work for in the country — 13th in 2016.

The grocer is heavily into prepared foods and on-site dining, something the other grocers in Truckee lack.

The space will be 35,000 square feet, approximately the same size as the Truckee Safeway.

Down the road, Wiele envisions the addition of a small independent drugstore, 7,500 square feet of street level retail space, and 7,500 feet of second-floor office space.

### THE RAILHOUSE BUILDING

The Railhouse, which will be a multi-use building developed by Holliday, is a 100,000 square foot space offering residential units, parking, and storefronts located directly at the entryway to the new part of downtown and across the street from the brew pub and movie theater. The architecture for the space follows a tiered plan to ease the feel of a multi-story building, for which there is a 50-foot height limit.

~ Ally Gravina



**SWOOSH BE GONE:** The "swoosh," or curve, that Donner Pass Road makes going north toward Glenshire Drive will be taken out, a roundabout installed, and the main road will continue east to the Railyard. This will create a "sense of entrance — with architectural elements that tell you 'you've arrived,'" says Railyard project manager Jason Hansford. Courtesy image



# Up First: Housing the Creatives

A space for Truckee's artists to live, collaborate, and perform is no longer a pipe dream. This past spring, the Town of Truckee gave the go-ahead for a 77-unit affordable housing community geared toward creative people. The Artist Lofts are the first installment of the Truckee Railyard project to get the green light, setting a new precedent for the Tahoe region, where affordable housing units are often the last parts built in a development.

"I've put my blood and guts into this," Rick Holliday said. "I'm excited to get started."

The release of the Truckee and North Tahoe regional housing study in August identified a need for more than 5,000 low-income housing units in North Tahoe to accommodate a growing workforce. According to Ali Youssefi, vice president of CFY Development and designer of the Artist Lofts project, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit can help Truckee and North Tahoe reach this target.

This tax credit was first ratified in 1986, around the time that Youssefi's father Cyrus founded CFY Development. The company has utilized the incentive to develop more than 30 affordable housing communities throughout the state of California, accounting for more than 3,500 units.

"These tax credits are the primary source of funding used to produce affordable housing across the country and a critical piece of our financing," Youssefi said. But CFY is among the vanguard with the focus on artists, and the company leverages its many years of experience to get it done.

In 2008, an amendment to the tax credit code designated "persons who are involved in artistic or literary activities" as a special class equivalent to special needs groups including disabled or elderly individuals. The amendment caught Youssefi's attention and became the basis for the first time he partnered with Holliday.

Holliday Development was desperate to figure out how to redevelop a Sacramento warehouse the company purchased in 2002. After nine years of thwarted efforts, the city's redevelopment agency eventually suggested affordable housing. Even though Holliday is a long-term board member (27 years) of Bridge Housing, a San Francisco nonprofit formed to "spearhead new solutions to the worsening shortage of affordable housing," this was not his area of development expertise, so he turned to CFY in 2012. Their first affordable artist community was born — the Warehouse Artist Lofts (WAL).

"Within six months [of partnering with Youssefi], WAL was under construction," Holliday said. "It is a really good site and gave me an idea of what his idea is and what he can do." In Ali Youssefi, Holliday says he got a partner that's "100 percent battle-tested, road-tested, and capital-tested." Looking for high-quality performers who have a vision is a keystone of Holliday's development style.

Thus, when Holliday began his Truckee Railyard project and considered how to satisfy the Town's affordable housing requirements, he immediately thought of Youssefi. Truckee's art scene has grown significantly, and features several art galleries and workshops, including the Truckee Roundhouse — a warehouse and makerspace near the airport slated to open Dec. 1. Add to this that the Youssefi family has a home in Tahoe Donner, and the recipe for another solid partnership was born.

"I am inspired by artists and their creative minds, and I think that Truckee has one of the strongest creative communities per capita in the country," Youssefi said.



**A PLACE TO CREATE:** The Artist Lofts was the first Railyard project to be approved and it is hoped the development will break ground in fall 2017. Courtesy image

Again, the two moved fast. Holliday first discussed the Railyard opportunity with Youssefi in 2013, and the initial site design was completed in 2014.

In addition to bringing relief to community members

desperate for affordable housing the Artist Lofts are also designed to act as a stimulant to the downtown core.

"WAL has brought over 100 of some of Sacramento's most creative individuals and families under one roof, energizing the neighborhood, and creating an affordable place for artists to live in the heart of downtown," Youssefi said.

The Truckee Artist Lofts will cater to creative members of the community, but will not bar other low-income individuals. "Everyone will be able to apply for an apartment in the building," Youssefi said. "The most important qualification is income level."

The 121,000 square foot four-story project will have 66 multifamily units restricted to those who make between 30 to 60 percent of the area's median income. The remaining 11 units will be market-rate. Final details are to be formalized in the Railyard Development Agreement with the Town, but one condition of approval is that the units will target full-time residents only and not allow short-term vacation or nightly rentals.

The Town of Truckee approved the affordable housing project in May 2016, months before it signed off on the development's master plan. Early affirmation allowed CFY to focus on submitting an application for the tax credits this past fall. The developers are looking for \$20 million in tax credits on a project estimated to cost \$29 million. The Artist Lofts was wait-listed for public funds, but CFY will re-apply in March, when a new application period opens.

"We have an eligible project and we're pretty experienced people at doing this process, so we'll apply till we get it," Holliday said.

Youssefi stressed that one affordable housing community won't solve the current housing crisis, but a range of ideas and implementation, including the Artist Lofts, are needed to bridge the gap.

"As we work on solving the housing crisis in Truckee, it's important that we create a diverse supply of affordable housing, and this project is envisioned to help do just that," he added.

~ Meghan Herbst

## Meet the Neighbors

There are 11 property owners within the Railyard Master Plan area — the largest landholders being Holliday Development and Union Pacific Railroad, which own approximately 35 acres and 33 acres, respectively. The rest of the landowners and neighbors further afield are a mixed lot — some of them have delayed the development via lawsuits, while others are willingly picking up and moving their own operations to make way for the Railyard project.

After the 2009 master plan was approved, a group called Friends of Truckee sued the Town of Truckee over concerns regarding the environmental review documents. While tight-lipped about its membership, the group was outspoken about its dislike of the realignment of Donner Pass Road, and requested improvements be made in Brickelltown and the preservation of the Union Pacific warehouse building, among other appeals.

Many felt the group was only interested in self-preservation. Then-town council member Josh Susman didn't mince words; he told *Moonshine Ink* in 2009 that he believed the Friends of Truckee were a "small group with a vested interest in protecting their individual businesses and their ability to demand high rents in the downtown."

The litigation held up the project for nearly two years, but eventually was settled in favor of the Railyard.

Fast forward to the approval of the new master plan. Upon this nod to go forward, Holliday Development gave Flyers Energy, owner of a card-lock fueling facility, notice to vacate its rented spot located in the southwest portion of the plan area. Flyers denied the Railyard's right to evict it and sued Truckee Development Associates, creating another costly litigation. However, in late August the courts again ruled in favor of the Railyard.

"Winning [the Flyers case] is psychologically helpful," Holliday said. "There's no ambiguity and we move forward."

On the other end of the spectrum, talks were started early about neighboring Truckee-Tahoe Lumber Co. relocating its longtime headquarters to remove the asynchronous industrial site from the plan area. Andrew Cross, the lumber company's president and CEO, is in full support of the idea and plans to move the business to the airport within three years.

"It's the right thing for Truckee. There's no question. The downtown should be a downtown," Cross explains. "If you look at a map, looking down at Truckee, there's this huge lot that's undeveloped. You can't help but think that there's where downtown belongs. The best part of Truckee is just sitting there, untouched. I'm excited to see something happen there."

TTL plans to retain ownership of their 3.15 acres in the Railyard area, with tentative plans for its future, but with every indication that it will tie into the Railyard vision.

"It's a family lot, I don't want to part with it," Cross said. "It's beautiful. The creek runs right next to it and something will fit there really well. It's a great revitalization opportunity."

The Railyard is seen by many to be a poster child for sustainable infill development, and perhaps that explains the wide support the development has sustained.

"This is smart growth on steroids," said Tony Lashbrook, Truckee town manager. As he told *Comstock's* magazine, a business publication based in Sacramento, in 2012, "I've been in local government for 31 years, and I've never seen the kind of community support for development that I have for this rail yard."

~ Mayumi Elegado



# Balancing Old-School Railroads and Modern Development

Railroad companies were granted the power of congressional right of way back in 1875, giving them much autonomy laying thousands of miles of tracks on public lands, and while the times have changed, they are still powerful entities that call the shots on the land they own.

Therefore, when the developers of the Truckee Railyard project entered into the purchase of the 35 acres of Union Pacific (UP) property, they knew it would require meticulous planning to negotiate and meet the needs of the railroad company and more than 100 years of railroad ownership in the area.

Truckee is also not just another train stop on the map — it's an integral location for keeping much of the Western rail network open, giving further reason to being very cautious about their property.

"Truckee is a critical route to all ports on the West Coast. We needed assurance that our operations would be as good or better after the developments as they were originally," said Rick Gooch, the director of special properties for Union Pacific.

Gooch was a key player in negotiating between the Town of Truckee, Holliday Development, and the railroad company, and the "unsung hero" of getting UP staff on board with the project, according to Rick Holliday.

A balloon track — the oval-shaped loop of track that connects to the main railroad — is currently located in the middle of the rail yard. Holliday says he

spent nearly \$250,000 on analyzing alternatives for the balloon track — including different routes and alternate modes of turning trains around. The 2009 Railyard master plan had the track relocated eastward on the same lot, but later studies determined that to be unfeasible, and planners had to rethink the course of action. Holliday suggested leaving the track as is, and developing inside the balloon. "When I first proposed it, I got laughed out of the room," he recalls.

The Truckee balloon track allows snow removal and other railroad machinery to change directions by circling the track to return the other direction. It marks the eastern terminus for the snow-clearing line that runs east-west through the Sierra Nevada, with up to 180 trips per winter on the roughly four-hour journey to the western side. If snow keeps trains from getting to Truckee, they may have to be rerouted to Southern California or north almost to Oregon, Gooch said.

Therefore, UP had to be convinced their operations wouldn't be hindered. "There was some heavy lifting that needed to be done inside UP to get all the folks on board ... but it's a well-designed project that is compatible with existing railroad operations," Gooch said.

Per 2016 changes to the 2009 master plan, it was decided the balloon track would remain in its current location, with modifications to its shape. This added 10 acres of development area to the project, within the track, while honoring the town's history. "Keeping the rail operations in the center of the development emphasizes Truckee's history as an industrial rail town," the developer's application stated.



**CRAZY IDEA:** "When I first proposed [development inside the balloon track], I got laughed out of the room," Rick Holliday says. Courtesy image

**2011/12:** California redevelopment agencies dissolved

**2012/2013:** Holliday Development builds a Railyard demonstration project in downtown (at the old Cake Tahoe building)

**2015/16:** Town Council approves priority processing for Railyard project

**September 2016:** Amended master plan approved by the Town; main difference from 2009 plan is that the balloon track stays in place

**October 2016:** First building permit pulled for demolition of the old Glass Shop

**December 2016:** Development agreement scheduled to go before Town Planning Commission

**Summer 2017:** Infrastructure Phase I scheduled to be completed, creating four developable parcels

**Fall 2017:** Artist Lofts project to break ground

Other major changes to UP property include taking down all current UP buildings and moving operations outside the balloon track, including the snow removal command, staffing area, cold storage facilities, mechanic shop, and equipment staging tracks. To sweeten the deal, Holliday Development agreed to pay for these new maintenance buildings at an estimated cost of \$7 to \$8 million.

## THE BALLOON REMAINS, AND FURTHER RAILROAD OBSTACLES

But blockades remain. The Railyard plan calls for the Donner Pass and Church Street extension roads to cross over the balloon track at three separate points, which requires approval from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). And while UP does not ultimately hold the decision, it will be consulted by the CPUC for input on the crossings applications, which will be filed by the Town of Truckee.

Typically, crossings such as these are not approved. Jason Hansford, the project manager for the Truckee Railyard, explains that normally the CPUC and railroad aim to remove crossings, while the Railyard is trying to build three new ones.

Nonetheless, Truckee remains optimistic. "The Town believes the proposed crossings are unique and warrant approval for a number of reasons," said Becky Bucar, the engineering manager for the Town of Truckee, in an email to *Moonshine Ink*.

She mentions that the proposed crossings are required in order to build an essential transportation facility, that the volume and speed of the trains on the balloon track are much less than on mainline tracks, that an overpass or underpass has been found to be impractical, and a conversion of the track to a "wye" was also determined to be infeasible.

"Town staff has worked closely with UP and CPUC staff to address their concerns on the application," Bucar said. Several draft applications have been sent to both the CPUC and UP for review, and the Town intends to submit a formal application to the CPUC later this November.

~ Dave Zook 

## Timeline:

**1990:** Truckee's last functioning lumber mill, which was located on the rail yard, closes

**1993:** Town of Truckee incorporated

**1995:** Downtown Truckee Specific Plan adopted, which targets the rail yard for redevelopment as an extension of downtown

**1996:** Union Pacific buys rail yard site from Southern Pacific

**2002:** Town of Truckee awarded \$350,000 grant for the rail yard from California's Sustainable Communities Grant and Loan Program

**2004:** Holliday Development purchases a significant portion of the rail yard

**2006:** First Truckee Railyard Master Plan completed and submitted for approval

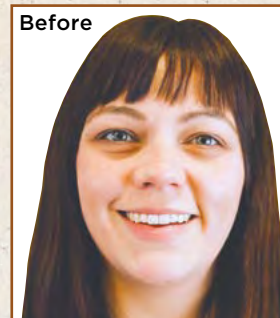
**2008-2010:** Great Recession

**2009:** Railyard Master Plan approved by the Town of Truckee

**2010/11:** Environmental litigation from Friends of Truckee



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## NEWS BRIEFS

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## 1 Placer Supervisors to Vote on Squaw Village Development Nov. 15

### OLYMPIC VALLEY

The Placer County Board of Supervisors will review the Village at Squaw Valley Redevelopment Plan during a public hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 15, and vote to approve or deny the proposal. This comes after an all-day Aug. 11 hearing where the Placer County planning commission approved the project in a 4-2 vote. This specific plan would develop up to 850 hotel, condominium-hotel, and fractional ownership residential units with a maximum of 1,493 bedrooms of project development, among other components. Info: 9 a.m., North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd, Kings Beach

## 2 Truckee Town Employees Grow Beards to Support American Cancer Society

### TRUCKEE

Members of the Truckee Police Department, along with some Town of Truckee employees, will begin to look a bit scruffy over the next several weeks, as employees will be participating in the annual No-Shave November in support of national cancer awareness month. The goal is to allow anyone regardless of age or income level to grow cancer awareness and raise money to fight cancer by embracing our hair, which many cancer patients lose. Info: Join for a group photo and "Best Beard Award" on Dec. 2, 3 p.m., Gene Upshaw Memorial Tahoe Forest Cancer Center.

## 3 State Recreational Area General Plan Revision Update

### KINGS BEACH

In December 2015, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the California Tahoe Conservancy, initiated a revision of the Kings Beach State Recreation Area General Plan and proposed a pier reconstruction project at the site. The existing development plan was written in 1980 and only addresses 6.82 acres, while the current recreation area encompasses 12.55 acres. The partnering agencies are proposing to reconstruct the existing Kings Beach pier to extend to deeper water, and have developed three general plan and pier rebuild alternatives, which they presented in a workshop and online. The plan's timeframe is to adopt and certify the general plan revision by fall 2017. The next meeting is estimated to be in spring 2017.

Info: Visit [www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28377](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28377) to see the proposed alternatives. To be on the mailing list to receive notification of future workshops, public meetings, and planning updates, submit your name and email address to [plan.general@parks.ca.gov](mailto:plan.general@parks.ca.gov)

## 4 Multiple Interstate 80 Crashes Lead to Emergency Roadwork

### FLORISTON

A high number of big rig crashes — 14 in a two-week span, according to a News 4-Fox 11 report — have spurred a \$1.4 million contract for emergency roadwork on Interstate 80 east of Truckee. Alternating lanes of Interstate 80 from Hinton Road to the Acid Flat Bridge east of Floriston will be closed as the contractor increases surface friction by grooving the concrete pavement on both lanes. Delays are to be expected through Nov. 23, with additional work possible after Thanksgiving. Info: Check the Caltrans District 3 Facebook page for traffic updates.



10

**MOUNTAIN FOLK:** Members of the High Fives Foundation Military to the Mountains program pose at Squaw Valley after a day of skiing. Photo courtesy High Fives Foundation



3

**PIERING AHEAD:** The existing pier is shown in blue, with the two proposed alternatives in yellow and orange, as part of the Kings Beach General Plan Update for the State Recreation Area. Courtesy image



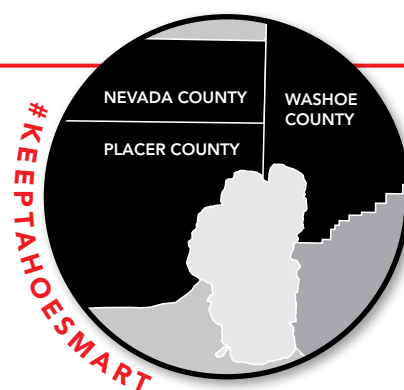
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**JOURNALISM, HONORED:** Jason Paladino, '12, received Sierra Nevada College's Alumni of the Year Award for his investigative reporting. Photo courtesy SNC Tahoe

## 5 Sierra Nevada College Alumni Awards Honor Investigative Journalist and Long-Term CEO

### INCLINE VILLAGE

Jason Paladino, '12, has been named Alumni of the Year for 2016, while Trustee Ben Solomon received the Lane Murray Distinguished Alumni Award. Paladino, a Truckee native and reporter at UC Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program at the Graduate School of Journalism, received the honor for outstanding achievements over the last year. Among other accomplishments, Paladino received the prestigious Society of Professional Journalists — NorCal 2016 James Madison Freedom of Information Student Award for his investigation into the Navy's Sea Dragon program. Ben Solomon's history with SNC goes back to its foundation in 1969, when he started as a volunteer professor, and then served as the CEO of the college for 25 years.



## 6 Recreation and Park District Requests Zoning Amendment for Caretaker Lots

### TRUCKEE

To help provide employee housing in the current housing shortage, the Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District is requesting a development code amendment to allow for seasonal park caretakers within the public facility zone district. The caretakers would work at West End Beach, Truckee River Regional Park, and Riverview Sports Park. Caretakers have historically lived on-site in personal RVs at designated campsites within each park, but the TDRPD has operated the units without authorization from the Town. The amendment would create an additional allowed usage for the caretakers. The amendment was approved by the planning commission in October, and next goes to a vote by the town council on Dec. 15. Town of Truckee Senior Planner Jenna Endres believes it is likely the amendment will go into effect around February 2017.

## 7 Coburns Crossing Project to go to Planning Commission

### TRUCKEE

Triumph Development, based in Bethesda, Md., is requesting approval from the Town to build a 71,090 square foot 114-room hotel, and five three-story apartment buildings with 138 rental units (33 studios, 54 one-bedroom units, 42 two-bedroom units, and nine three-bedroom units) and common amenities. The project is scheduled for the Nov. 15 planning commission hearing. A total of 350 parking spaces is also proposed; 121 allocated to the hotel and 229 to the apartments. Info: <http://bit.ly/2eGYx0k>

## 8 County Begins First-Ever Parks and Trail Master Plan

### PLACER

The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a consultant agreement in late October to prepare the first-ever countywide comprehensive park and trail master plan, which guides park and trail development for the next 10 years. The master plan is intended to update the county's general plan standards put in place in 1994 and to serve new trends and demographics. Next steps include determining available countywide inventory, demand, funding availability, priorities, service standards, fee program and a strategic plan. Info: [placer.co.gov](http://placer.co.gov)



## 9 New Squaw Valley Ski Museum CEO

### OLYMPIC VALLEY

Sandy Chio has joined the Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation as executive director. "We found in Sandy the perfect complement of leadership, ski industry knowledge, Olympic heritage expertise, and a passion for this project," said David Antonucci, Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation Board president, in a press release. Chio comes to North Lake from Park City, UT, where she led the marketing and communications team for the Utah Olympic Legacy Foundation, a nonprofit created as part of the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Info: olympicskimuseum.com

## 10 High Fives to be Honored National Event

### TRUCKEE

On Nov. 12, High Fives — the Truckee-based nonprofit that supports the dreams of mountain action sports athletes who suffered life-altering injuries — will be honored at a national charity gala. They are being recognized for their work raising money for Military to the Mountains, a platform for U.S. veterans to tell their stories, embrace goal-setting



**9** CHIO, THE NEW DIRECTOR of the Squaw Valley Ski Museum, is looking to secure site approval for the museum. Courtesy photo

and athleticism, and enjoy life and its challenges. The honor will take place at the CHIVE's 4th Annual Green Gala at The Belmont in Austin, Texas. The CHIVE is the number one humor site on the web, and their charity arm, Chive Charities, donated money to the Military to the Mountains program. Info: highfivesfoundation.org

## 11 Is the Martis Valley Groundwater at a Sustainable Yield?

### TRUCKEE

Various local agencies are holding a public meeting on Nov. 14 to introduce and receive comments on the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin (MVGB) alternative submittal and the process for compliance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). Information on SGMA, the requirements for an alternative submittal, and a report certifying that the MVGB has operated within the sustainable yield for at least 10 years will be presented.

Info: Nov. 14, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Truckee Donner Public Utility District board room, 11570 Donner Pass Road, Truckee. Contact Steven Poncelet for more, (530) 582-3951, stevenponcelet@tdpud.org.

## 12 Airport Looks at Enhancing Airfield, Modernizing Terminal

### RENO

Reno-Tahoe International Airport is undertaking a 16-month master planning process that will address airport growth, aviation industry changes, and FAA standards for the next 20 years. It will provide a funding roadmap and address the dynamics of air service and cargo while balancing the needs of the community. Three focus areas include: Airfield enhancements such as runways, taxiways, aprons and airspace; terminal modernization including ticketing, gates, customs, concessions, baggage; and ground transportation extending to roads, parking, airport land use, and more. In 2015, the airport reported its first annual growth in passengers in a decade at a 3.9 percent increase from the previous year. Info: renoairport.com/master-plan

# A NUMBER OF BIG RIG CRASHES — 14 IN A TWO-WEEK SPAN — HAVE SPURRED A \$1.4 MILLION CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY ROADWORK ON I-80 EAST OF TRUCKEE

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# IN THE PAST

## All Aboard Tahoe

The master plan behind the train to Tahoe City and securing it as a tourist destination



**LIFE OF LUXURY:** Passengers would exit the train and literally be on Tahoe Tavern's pier, where they could step directly onto a steamer and get a full tour of the lake. Photo courtesy North Lake Tahoe Historical Society

BY ABBY STEVENS  
Moonshine Ink

D.L. Bliss, a successful timber baron who had been in business in Nevada since 1907, watched as the lumber from the forests surrounding Carson City, Nev. began to dwindle. So he and his business partner Henry M. Yerington decided to move a little further west. They picked Glenbrook, Nev. as their new logging headquarters, which sat right on the edge of the Jewel of the Sierra. To get lumber from the Basin to a vast woodyard in Carson City, and then onto the mines at the Comstock Lode, Yerington and Bliss used the Summit Flume. But they also needed a link to the summit so they constructed an 8.75-mile long, narrow-gauge railroad that ran from Glenbrook up steep switchbacks to Spooner Summit, according to *Lake Tahoe's Railroads* by Stephen E. Drew. The rail ran two trains, *Tahoe* and *Glenbrook*,



**TWO BIRDS, ONE STONE:** Bliss conveniently set up the rail yard to maintain trains right by the marina, where he also serviced his steamer vessels. Photo courtesy Tahoe City Marina

which puffed up and back — the critical link to supporting the lumber and flume operations.

D.L. Bliss' business acumen didn't stop with lumber: By his 60s he had scoped out the real estate market around Lake Tahoe, and outlined a new industry in

the Sierra — tourism. Just like with the success of his lumber endeavor, one essential piece of Bliss' puzzle was transportation — how would he get guests to the lake? Before that time, anyone who traveled to Lake Tahoe came by stagecoach after getting off the train in Auburn, a long journey. But Southern Pacific Railroad was nearing completion of

a train route from Auburn to Truckee, so all Bliss had to do was build the final connection. He entrusted his son William Seth Bliss, a civil engineer, to map out a train route, according to *The First 100 years* by Carol Van Etten. With a team of trusted businessmen from Bliss' Glenbrook enterprise, the Lake Tahoe Transportation Company formed, and the 14.75-mile long connection from Truckee to the shores of Tahoe City was built.

The route followed along the Truckee River, crossing it a few times. The rail was a 3-foot-gauge track with a 2.5 percent grade, according to Drew. The railroad then ended right on the pier at Bliss' resort, the Truckee Tavern, on the west shore of Tahoe City. The passengers could hop off the train, walk across the pier, and climb aboard one of Bliss' steamer boats, which took passengers around the lake. The tourist experience was seamless.

The trains would then continue on down Commons Beach to the site of the current Tahoe City Marina, to drop off cargo and be serviced. Bliss had planned out every detail of his new business infrastructure in Tahoe City and desperately needed places to maintain the trains and housing for his employees. From his construction projects in Glenbrook, Bliss knew all too well that the building season in Tahoe was unforgivingly short. So instead of building all new structures, he decided to use what he had. Bliss instructed his men to take everything they could use from the Glenbrook property, including complete houses that they winched onto his steam-powered work vessels, the *Emerald* and the *Meteor*, "literally floating his empire across the Lake to the scene of its next incarnation," writes Carol Van Etten.

Then the crew unloaded the vessels and relocated the buildings in Tahoe City. There were two large structures by the marina that were used to house cargo cars when being worked on. The current Tahoe City Marina building was originally a site for rail yard maintenance and what is now Dockside Restaurant was used for lumber storage. Almost all of the original structures from Glenbrook have long since been replaced except for the kitchen and the bar in Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique Restaurant, which was originally a logger's house in Glenbrook.

The railroad connection from Truckee made Tahoe City a tourist destination. Originally, guests would only come in the summertime, but eventually, guests began to venture here during the winter as well thanks to the ease of taking the train.

Read about the new life for Truckee's rail yard, see p. 12.

To read more about the history of Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique Restaurant read their new cookbook, reviewed on p. 22 of our Holiday Handbook. ☺

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# Redlight Illuminates Truckee

Town's only hostel is a place for new friends and adventures

BY ALEXANDRA SPYCHALSKY  
Moonshine Ink

Gnomes, by nature, are personable creatures. Triscuits are their snack of choice, and they all speak with a British accent, though they insist they are not in fact British. Regular white lights are too harsh for them, so red is the light frequency they prefer, and which makes them most productive. Hence the name of the Redlight hostel, a nod to the eponymous red lights that fill the basement of the building in the heart of downtown Truckee, where a fleet of friendly gnomes reside.

If this story seems far-fetched to you, don't feel alone. Even the owners of Redlight are still workshopping the story behind the name of their new hostel. What the creative license taken illustrates most is the eccentricity of Redlight's owners, and the kind of stay you'll have if you choose to frequent the hostel.

Chances are, you have driven by the red building, but most likely did not know what it was. That is by design. There is no signage, nothing to advertise the company name or the nature of their business. You can't just walk in, either. You must be buzzed in, meaning you were deemed worthy to enter. And owners, Zach Cowan and Abby Pulos have no plans to change that.

Cowan and Polus are like the perfect comedic duo. Cowan is the eclectic, and Polus serves as his "straight man," tempering his wandering thoughts, but never extinguishing them. And to say Polus is the serious one undercuts her contribution to the zany pair. Both are bold dreamers, with their heads in the clouds, but one has her feet a little more firmly on the ground.

After seeing the building at 10101 W. River St, Cowan knew that it was the perfect layout for a hostel. Yet neither one of them had any experience in starting a hostel from scratch. Neither has a background in construction. Revitalizing the historic building, purchased by Cowan in 2012, was a



**DUAL INTERESTS:** Redlight owners Zach Cowan and Abby Pulos have an affinity for running hostels and discussing gnomes. Photos by Jeremy Jensen/Moonshine Ink

lesson in how to "build your own hostel through YouTube," Polus said. Neither had a background in hotel management. They caved and let a few hikers stay in the hostel before they were fully ready to launch, a choice they later deemed "unprofessional, even by their standards." Cowan said that he had once thought of purchasing a hostel in Argentina, where he spent many years as an adventure guide, but thought better of it, saying that at the time he "pretty

bunk rooms, private rooms with private or shared baths, and a suite with a kitchenette. They also provide amenities like laundry service — vital for the hikers who frequent the hostel — and even a dry sauna that overlooks Riverside Drive and the Truckee River. The bunk rooms are the most unique. Polus describes Cowan as having an engineering-inclined mind with an incredible artistic side, which is evident from the marvelous and genius way he designed the bunks.



**BEDS, WINE, AND BEER** is the tagline of Redlight. Two of those three can be enjoyed right at their fun and funky bar, open to the public.

much decided it would be a bad idea to ever have anything to do with a hostel."

But in spite of the lack of prior experience, Redlight launched in June, and the reception has been overwhelmingly positive. Its proximity to the train and bus stations is perfect for travelers like Pacific Crest Trail thru-hikers, or adventurers without cars.

The hostel offers multiple types of rooms for every type of traveler: shared



**EXPERIENCE**, not in hostel management, but in staying in hostels, led to the design of the bunk rooms.

It's clear he has spent a lot of time in hostels, and knows the pitfalls that come with sharing a room with strangers. The bunks have black-out curtains for privacy and a lockable cabinet above the foot of the bed with outlets inside, so people can charge their devices without having to worry about them being left unattended. All rooms are also insulated to provide some soundproofing, and are equipped with white noise machines.

Cowan also knows the importance of the

social aspect that comes with staying in a hostel.

"What's unique about the business here ... is the different way to travel and see things and maybe meet people, which I think you get in the hostel experience that I don't see here," Cowan said. "Just trying to meet someone to go find a good activity to do, I think that's the thing that this town is missing, and that's what we're trying to provide."

Cowan and Polus want to create an environment that facilitates those social connections. Redlight has a bar, open to the public from 6 to 11 p.m. on Thursday to Saturday nights. It has a large kitchen with space to cook meals with new friends. The top floor of the building houses a donated library, replete with piles of comfy pillows for seating. There is also a stylish lounge in the back of the house, and the next project is to complete the '70s-themed movie room, which will feature a mustard yellow velour couch, lava lamps and red curtains.

In the past, the building has been a saloon, a speakeasy, a brothel and a boarding house, says Polus. The gothic décor and red velvet wallpaper of the front room harkens back to the history of the building, and pays homage to the original wallpaper found when fixing up the place. The floor in the lounge is plastered with turn-of-the-century newspapers and magazines, advertising corsets and other dated ladies' fashions. Polus is in the process of making an


art installation for the bar that will combine peacock feathers, a mannequin, and gold-painted, molted snakeskin from her python.

Cowan and Polus say they want to create an environment that inspires adventure at every turn. Cowan's eyes light up when he says the word adventure. As a former outdoors guide, that is one area he doesn't need a YouTube video to explain. "I really liked bringing people to a place that puts them right at the edge of what they can

do, or what they thought they could do," Cowan said of his time as a guide. "And then you give them the sense of discovery. That was the best part. But that has nothing to do with this."

"Actually, it has everything to do with this," Polus said.

"But once I discovered the gnomes ..."

For more information, visit [redlighttruckee.com](http://redlighttruckee.com). 



# BUSINESS BRIEFS

All the news that fits — from original reporting or press releases. Submit your own to [editors@moonshineink.com](mailto:editors@moonshineink.com).



**CREATIVE TO THE CORE:** Even the furniture showcases knack gallery's creativity, with an old baby grand piano from a West Oakland jazz club to serve as their register desk. Photo by Jeremy Jensen/Moonshine Ink

## 1 knack Fine Art Gallery to Open TRUCKEE

Nancy Holliday and Lorien Powers join forces to open a new fine art gallery. The studio revolves around combining one's photography with the other's jewelry. "I wanted the walls, she wanted the floor, so it worked perfectly," Holliday said.

Holliday, who is partners with her husband Rick at Holliday Development — the developer of the Truckee Railyard project (see p. 12) — describes her work as an opportunity to "understand motion, design, and function in a new light," and says her favorite images "capture fleeting details of everyday life that will never happen again in exactly the same way."

Powers, a Truckee local who specializes in industrial and contemporary style jewelry and currently owns a shop next to Moody's, wanted a bigger and quieter place for custom work and to showcase higher-end jewelry. She will keep both her shops going, though she plans to focus her studio work in knack. The artists anticipate a soft opening for the gallery in December. Info: Find "knack Truckee" on Instagram and Facebook, 9932 Donner Pass Rd, Truckee, [knacktruckee.com](http://knacktruckee.com)

## 2 Mamasake Closes After 15 Years SQUAW VALLEY

In October, owner Elsa Corrigan announced she was closing Mamasake Squaw after 15 years in business. "It is with bittersweet emotion that I announce the closure of Mamasake Squaw ... for many reasons, none of which is significant alone," she wrote in a press release. For the time being, Corrigan says she will continue to support various nonprofit organiza-

tions in the Truckee/Tahoe area and continue to work at her restaurant locations in Fiji.

## 3 Locals Help Design Town and Country World Tour INCLINE VILLAGE

Town and Country magazine is celebrating their 170-year anniversary in style, with a 170-day world travel itinerary reminiscent of the Grand Tour of centuries past, a rite of passage for privileged young Brits. In order to create the most comprehensive travel plan possible, Town and Country hired Dr. Toni Neubauer and Allie Almario of Incline Village-based travel agency Myths and Mountains to help craft the modern day tour. According to its website, the company specializes in customizing "luxury travel with casual elegance" for clients across the globe, and the voyage it created for Town and Country includes a detailed hour-by-hour plan for each of the 170 days across 40 countries. The full itinerary can be found at [townandcountrymag.com](http://townandcountrymag.com).



**AROUND THE WORLD IN 170 DAYS:** Incline Village-based Myths and Mountains crafted a modern-day Grand Tour for Town and Country magazine. Courtesy image

## 4 Northstar California Looks for New General Manager TRUCKEE

Beth Howard recently left her post as Northstar California general manager to become the chief operating officer of Beaver Creek Resort, where she spent the first 30 years of her career. Northstar California will be immediately looking for a replacement for Howard, who headed the resort for two years. Howard's farewell involves a game of upper management musical chairs at Vail Resorts. Vail Mountain's chief operating officer, Chris Jarnot, became the new mountain division vice president, to be replaced by Doug Lowell, who Howard will be replacing at Beaver Creek. The company is very supportive of the move, and says it is looking to create "new opportunities for several experienced leaders at the company."

## 5 Squaw Valley Promotes New Vice President of Marketing OLYMPIC VALLEY

Tom Feiten has been promoted to Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows' new vice president of marketing and business development. Feiten has been working in the resort's marketing and sales department for five years, during which time he focused on strong brand positioning, sales channel optimization, and research-based product development. He also has three years prior experience with Teton Gravity Research and eight years with Booth Creek Ski Holdings in Vail, Colo.

## 6 Sugar Bowl Welcomes Dave Rathbun as Chief Marketing Officer DONNER SUMMIT

Sugar Bowl hired Dave Rathbun as their new CMO this October. He recently finished an eight-year engagement as the president and general manager of Mt. Bachelor, Ore. During his time there, Rathbun supervised four record years, coordinated a successful master plan update, directed a major rebranding effort, and managed numerous mountain improvement projects. His career in the ski industry spans 30 years at mountains such as Killington, Vt.; Copper Mountain, Colo.; and Stratton Mountain, Vt.

## 7 Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Suspends Mandatory Drug Testing OLYMPIC VALLEY

Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows will discontinue its policy of mandatory pre-employment drug testing this year, and will only administer tests on the basis of reasonable suspicion, post-accident, and post-incident. The resort still maintains its policy against employees' use of drugs or illegal substances, which calls for discipline up to and including termination for the use, possession, or sale, of illegal drugs. The resort is also implementing an education program in which experts instruct management-level employees on how to identify suspicious behaviors related to drugs and alcohol, prepare appropriate responses, and identify support resources.

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# Real Estate



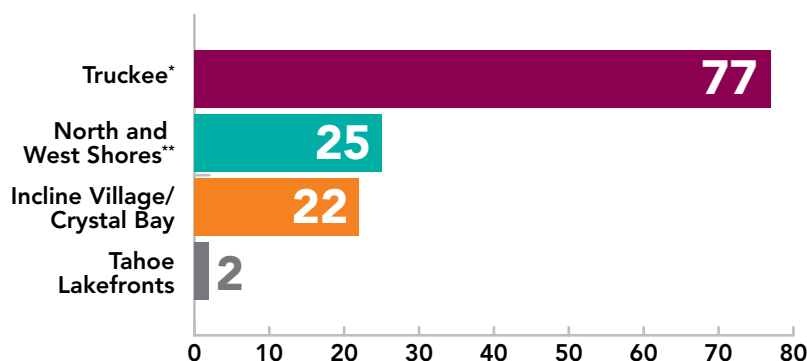
## Market Watch

~ Data taken from the Tahoe Sierra MLS and Incline Village MLS.

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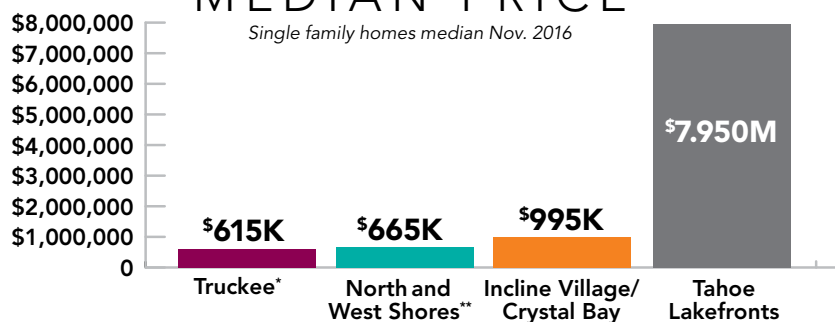
## UNITS SOLD

Single family homes sold Nov. 2016



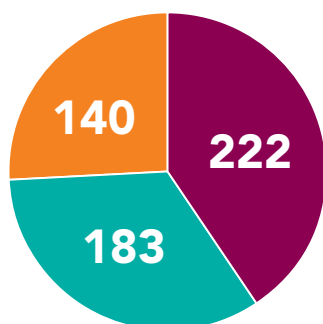
## MEDIAN PRICE

Single family homes median Nov. 2016



## HOMES FOR SALE

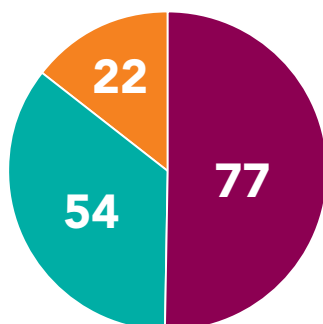
Single family homes for sale as of 11/1/16



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## HOMES PENDING OR CONTINGENT

Single family homes pending as of 11/1/16



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# On Sale Now

## FOUR ADORABLE A-FRAME HOMES

### A-frame(s)



Photo courtesy Oliver Luxury Real Estate

**1** So, we're not sure whether or not to call this house an A-frame or simply a home with a unique roofline, but, nonetheless, the jagged peaks of this Truckee home remind us of a mountain range, and we like that. Apart from resembling the Sierra, this home was designed and built as a display of the builder's accumulated 30 years of research in building energy efficiency. This house also has an in-law suite you could rent out to do your part in helping the #TahoeHousingCrisis, or you could invite your in-laws to move in — your choice. *Info: Truckee, 3,480 square feet, \$869,000, Oliver Luxury Real Estate*

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### A-Frame of The Future

**2** It can be hard to find a newly remodeled home that still has the rustic charm of an old Tahoe A-frame cabin. But this Carnelian Bay home does just that. You would never guess this cabin was built in 1962, thanks to a recent remodel of both the interior and exterior. Also, this cabin of the future has a Tesla Motors charger and Nest system. *Info: Carnelian Bay, 800 square feet, \$539,000, Sierra Sotheby's International*



Photo courtesy Sierra Sotheby's International

### Bright, Sunny, and Storage-Friendly

**3** Anyone who has been inside an A-frame cabin knows that they often lack two things — natural light and closets. This lack of features can be tricky for your average Tahoe-ite, since we stereotypically need lots of storage for our gear and relish the sun coming through our windows in the morning. However, this newly renovated cabin in Tahoe City boasts ample closet space and bright, airy rooms. It even has two large sheds in the back for anything that doesn't fit in the house. *Info: Tahoe City, 896 square feet, \$459,000, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage*



Photo courtesy Coldwell Banker Brokerage

### PLUS BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK!

### Big Back Yard

**4** This quintessential Tahoe home is perfect for any young, first-time home buyers who are excited about sinking their teeth into some home improvement projects. The cabin includes the adjacent lot, and is located in a snowmobile-friendly neighborhood — can you say winter playground! Residents pay annual HOA dues that include water, sewer, road maintenance, snow removal, and access to a member's-only swimming hole on the Yuba River. *Info: Soda Springs, 896 square feet, \$275,000, Tahoe Truckee Brokers*



Photo courtesy Tahoe Truckee Brokers





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## FEATURED LISTINGS



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Casa Baeza is a popular, well established restaurant for sale in Historic Downtown Truckee. Both the business and real estate are available for sale, but do not need to be sold together. A full liquor license is included in the sale of the restaurant. This restaurant is a mainstay in Truckee and comes with a very loyal customer base. Casa Baeza is located in a prime area of Historic Downtown Truckee.



**Jessica Barton**  
Realtor®  
Hospitality Expert  
Social Media  
Marketing Expert



**Central Sierra Garage**, centrally located in Truckee, was started in 1986 and has been operating out of its current location since 2005. This is an independent service repair shop with an office, two bays, 8 designated parking spaces and all the tools!



**Tahoe Shoe & Clothing Company** has serviced locals and tourists for 33 years in Tahoe City, opening it's doors in 1983. Inventory will be sold at cost before the close of escrow. An opportunity to own a successful retail shop in very desirable location!



At **Zia Lina** only local, seasonal and organic ingredients are used to create one of a kind Italian dishes. Everything is made from scratch from their sauces to their bread and ice cream. Inside you will find a romantic and cozy atmosphere with great service!



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# THE SWITZERLAND OF THE TRANSACTION

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT GOES INTO AN ESCROW AND HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY CLOSE ONE



**THE ESCROW ENDGAME:** While perhaps daunting at first, the escrow period is a manageable and essential step to owning your home. Hvostik/bigstockphoto.com

If your agent says it is time to open escrow, are you like, “huh?”

Of the real estate terms you’ve heard most, escrow is likely up there. Once you’ve successfully negotiated the purchase price of a home and entered into a contract, the next step is to open escrow. Think of the escrow company as the Switzerland of the transaction — it’s a neutral third party that takes in the buyer’s money and deposits to the seller at the end.

The buyer and buyer’s agent traditionally choose which escrow



**PROPERTY POINTS**  
By Amie Quirarte

company will follow you through to the close of your transaction. It acts as a hub for buyers, sellers, and lenders to deposit money into and disburse money from. The escrow holder has the obligation to safeguard the funds and documents throughout the escrow period, and to disburse

funds and convey title only when all provisions of the escrow have been met.

For the standard residential purchase agreements in the state of California (aka your offer), 3 percent of the purchase price is what’s known as your earnest money deposit (aka your deposit). Your deposit shows the seller you are a committed buyer and willing to put some skin in the game. Assuming all goes well in negotiations, your deposit, which is due within three days of acceptance of your offer, will be held in escrow and eventually credited towards the down payment and/or closing costs at the close of escrow.

The escrow timeframe varies with every transaction and can range anywhere from 10 to 90 days. Did you read that right? 10 days? **SAY WHAT?** If you’re wondering which

factors play into this, allow me to explain.

If your purchase will be an all-cash deal (and no, this doesn’t mean you show up at the escrow office with duffle bags of cash), and there are no conditions — such as appraisal and loan contingencies — to be met from the lender, you remove one of the most time consuming parts of every purchase and can have an escrow close as quickly as ten days.

For the buyers who will be acquiring a loan to purchase their property, the escrow timeframe is largely up to their lender. There are multiple factors that lead up to the lender eventually dispersing the funds to you. One of those steps is whether the appraisal comes in at value — discussed in last month’s article. The numerous guidelines to be met when working with a lender, and the timeframes that must be strictly adhered to, often result in a 45-day escrow.

Up until recently, a 30-day close was standard practice. Most lenders can still pull that off, but believe it is safer to plan for 45 days. The biggest factor in the extended escrow period is something called TILA/RESPA Integrated Disclosure rule (gulp), aka TRID. I recommend

a search on TRID to learn why it is important to the home lending process. It certainly shook up the mortgage industry when it went into effect in October 2015.

In March, I had what’s called a delay of escrow with a client, in which our 30-day escrow turned into a 90-day escrow. But why?

My buyer took all the right steps; she was pre-approved, she found the right house, and we submitted a winning offer. Finances were lined up and we were set to close on day 30 of our escrow timeline. A few days before close, the lender did a credit check to ensure nothing had changed that would cause delays in funding. That’s when the lender noticed our buyer had recently purchased a new car with a loan from the bank. Because of this financial setback, we had to ask the seller to extend our escrow for an additional 60 days. Luckily, the seller graciously accepted our request and my buyer is now happily in her home.

Often times, once you have found the house you love, you are ready to get in. The escrow period might seem like a troublesome speed bump, but you’ll get through it in no time and the house will be yours!

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## 1 Crown Redevelopment Project Takes off

### KINGS BEACH

In May, the Crown Motel was purchased by Laulima Partners, kicking off another Kings Beach development, on the heels of the \$44 million Kings Beach Commercial Core Improvement Project. The overall project includes 4.5 acres on either side of Highway 28 and 117 lodging rooms, 34 residential units, and 5,500 square feet of commercial space. The project is currently undergoing preliminary design, and developers expect to submit an initial project development application to TRPA and Placer County in December, according to Brian Helm of Paradigm8 Partners. They anticipate completing project review and approval during 2017 and to begin construction in 2018. Several workshops are being planned to gather public input. Info: [crownredevelopmentproject.com](http://crownredevelopmentproject.com).



**1** BIRDIES VIEW of Ferrari's Crown Motel in Kings Beach, site of the proposed Laulima Partners development. Photo by Drone Promotions

## 2 Chris Gerrald New Manager of Placer Title

Placer Title in Nevada County is bringing on Chris Gerrald as their new office manager in Truckee. Gerrald has worked with Placer Title since 1996, and she and her team have big goals to take the company to the next level of service for its clients and community. Locally owned and operated, Placer Title has the distinction of being one of the only independent title insurance and escrow agencies licensed in all 58 California counties.

Info: [placertitle.com/branch/truckee](http://placertitle.com/branch/truckee)



**2** NEW OFFICE MANAGER Chris Gerrald has taken a new role at Placer Title. She has worked with the company since 1996. Courtesy photo

## 3 Veeder View LLC Purchases Riverside Drive Units

Four lots in the Riverside Drive and West River Street area have recently been purchased by Veeder View LLC, as confirmed by the Town of Truckee. A submitted Lot Line Adjustment request and a Historic Demolition request for one of the residences have been filed. No approvals have been granted at this time for either application. "The Historic Demolition is unique in that the owner is challenging the Town's determination that the residence is historic, so



**3** PURCHASED ... WHAT'S NEXT? Several lots have been acquired on Riverside Drive by Veeder View LLC, along with a Historic Demolition request for one of the lots. Photo by Jeremy Jensen/Moonshine Ink

we will have to go through a process to determine if the historic resource inventory is correct," said Jenna Endres, senior planner at the Town of Truckee.

## 4 Sierra Sotheby's to Target China's Wealthy with New Alliance

LAKE TAHOE  
Sierra Sotheby's International Realty has announced an alliance with juwai.com that enables the luxury real estate brand to generate Chinese buyer interest on one of the world's most prominent real estate websites. China is already the second-largest source of visits to [sothebysrealty.com](http://sothebysrealty.com), only after the United States, and accounts for one out of every 10 visitors. "Our goal is to be on the forefront of tapping into this market for our Lake Tahoe sellers," said Brit Crezee, director of marketing, Sierra Sotheby's International Realty, in a press release.

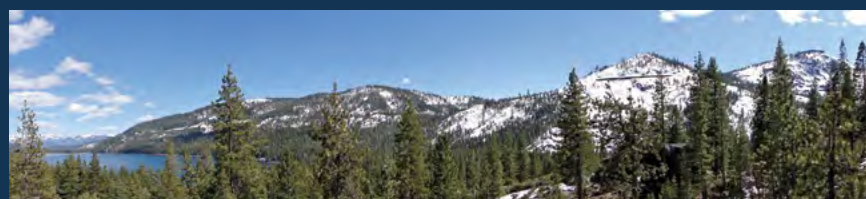
Sotheby's International Realty, in a press release.

## 5 Scott Corridan Selected as Judge for Magazine Design Awards

INCLINE VILLAGE  
Kitchen + Bath Business Magazine selected Tahoe designer Scott Corridan as one of their judges for their prestigious Design Awards. Corridan and his fellow judges were charged with reviewing more than 130 submissions for this year's decision. "I'm very flattered — it's a high honor and an endorsement of the work we're doing," said Corridan in a press release. "And it comes with careful responsibility." The awards were published in the September 2016 issue. Corridan, who lives in Incline Village, is a nationally recognized event planner and interior designer. 

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# The Art of Falconry

Lovina Robison is proud of the fact she will never in her life have to hunt with a gun; instead, she has spent the last couple of years out in the field hunting small game with her red-tailed hawk, Zen. As one of the approximately 4,000 falconers in the U.S., Robinson devoted valuable time to completing a two-year apprenticeship, in addition to receiving the necessary permits and licenses to care for an animal that requires attention 365 days a year, even more so than a dog or a cat.

One of the most challenging aspects to caring for a red-tailed hawk is keeping them in flying shape. "I have to weigh him several times a day," Robinson said, "Raptors are athletes, and in order for them to hunt effectively they need to be

in shape." While Zen doesn't see open flight every day, he will, at the very least, receive flights within Lovina's house until the weekend. "Most weekends Zen and I will head out to open land to let him fly and challenge him with seeking out prey. This is also time for me to meditate out in nature; the reason I named him Zen is because he forces me to get outside, away from it all."

Obsessed with wolves, Robinson immediately took to red tails as they're often referred to as "the wolves of the sky" for their characteristic pack hunting. "One in five hawks end up surviving in the wild," Robinson explains, "largely in part for how extensively humans have developed their hunting grounds." Caring for Zen has given Robinson the opportunity

to help preserve these animals. Admittedly, she hasn't acquired the taste just yet for the meat Zen produces while hunting, but will one day, and feels comfort in the fact she will never go hungry if all else fails.

~ Photos and words by Jeremy Jensen/  
Moonshine Ink



Animal Tales



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# CAPTURING AUSTRALIA

I departed Truckee at dawn to catch a flight from Reno to Los Angeles, merely a routine by now. As I drag my sluggish body down the Los Angeles International Airport jet bridge, my first opportunity to get sleep in three days looks like it's about to become a reality. I board early to make sure my large camera pack will have adequate space in the overhead compartment. All is well, I'm in an aisle seat on the left side of the plane one or two rows behind the

economy bulkhead. Across the aisle are two small children, about two and four years of age, with their mother in the middle. Great. Here we go. Upon taxi, the younger girl closest to me decides she does not want to wear her seatbelt and starts screaming to get it off her.

We are precisely zero minutes into a 14 hour flight and I tear open the overly shiny earplugs Virgin Atlantic supplies and insert them deep inside my ear canals underneath my noise canceling headphones. I'm just about to doze off into that lovely 72-hour-sleep-deprived coma when the older sister decides she has had enough. of. this. plane. and. she. wants. off. right. now. (Her punctuated

screams, not mine). Oh well ... only 12 hours to go.

I travel seven months of the year filming and photographing for action sports, outdoor, and travel clients; my desire and passion to inspire others through amazing imagery has taken me to more than 60 countries around the globe. For this particular trip, I was



**WANDERING NATIVES**  
By Matt Hardy

fortunate to be off to Australia for the next two months photographing and guiding for Rustic Pathways, a teenage travel company with a mission to empower students through innovative and responsible travel experiences to positively impact lives and communities around the world.

This was my fourth summer with Rustic, previously having worked in the countries of Costa Rica, Fiji, New Zealand,

Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and India. Working with them is different than with most commercial clients because I'm a guide/leader in addition to my creative responsibilities. This means I get to interact with students and be a mentor instead of solely being behind a camera. This is not your average job. In fact, working as a program leader/photographer for Rustic is about as atypical as it gets when it comes to work. Your office might be a remote water village in Myanmar, the desert in Morocco, or the Sacred Valley in Peru. It's thrilling, exhausting, eye-opening, and challenging. Even after four years, you never know what to expect when signing on for

a summer. The revolving cast of characters you meet and work with will surprise you, challenge you, and impress you — all reasons I keep going back.

I hadn't slept in days because one



(clockwise from top left)  
**INTERNATIONAL LANDMARK:**

The Sydney Opera House in Australia's largest city. **TIME WITH THE LOCALS**, both human and mammal, Hardy spent time working at a kangaroo and wallaby hospital.

**SURVIVOR:** Rustic Pathways ran a survival program based on the show *Survivor* on Australia's North West Island, the home to the second largest coral cay (sandy island on the surface of a coral reef) in the Great Barrier Reef. Photos by Matt Hardy

of the biggest projects of my career was due five hours prior to takeoff. And there I sat, so utterly drained that it felt as though dumbbells were attached to my eyelids; but my brain was telling me, you shouldn't sleep. Three hours in the sisters had exhausted their energy supply and passed out while the poor woman next to me managed to be moved to an empty seat near the lavatory. These "How did I get into this situation?" moments are quite common in my life. Most people only see the exotic locations, fancy equipment, and romanticize what the lifestyle of a travel cinematographer is like. Everyone thinks that I just go out there and have fun, bask on sunny beaches and

>>>



## AUSSIE SLANG TRANSLATOR

Here are a few words I learned that you can use as an informal guide on your next visit and for understanding the article.

- **Good on ya, mate:** good for you, well done
- **Arvo:** afternoon
- **Bogan:** Australia's version of a redneck
- **Bottle-o:** bottle shop, liquor store
- **Dead horse:** sauce, tomato sauce
- **Esky:** cooler, insulated food and drink container
- **Fair dinkum:** true, real, genuine
- **Grommet:** young surfer
- **Laughing gear:** mouth
- **Mozzie:** mosquito
- **Pash:** a long passionate kiss
- **Ripper:** really great roo: kangaroo. A baby roo, still in the pouch, is known as a joey.
- **Roo bar:** The "bumper" mounted to nearly every ute (see below) and car outside of the city to keep roos from destroying your car. Don't worry, there are 3 roos to every 1 human.
- **Servo:** gas station. In Australia, a gas station is called a petrol station. If you ask for gas, don't be surprised if someone farts.
- **She'll be right:** everything will be all right
- **Slab:** 24-pack of beer
- **Snag:** sausage
- **Sook:** to sulk. If someone calls you a sook, it is because they think you are whinging.
- **Stubbie holder:** koozie or cooler
- **Sweet as:** sweet, awesome. Aussies will often put 'as' at the end of adjectives to give them emphasis. Other examples include lazy as, lovely as, fast as, and common as.
- **Togs:** swimsuit
- **Thongs:** sandals or flip-flops
- **Tradie:** a tradesman.
- Most of the **tradies** have nicknames too, including **brickie** (bricklayer), **truckie** (truck driver), **sparky** (electrician), **garbo** (garbage collector) and **chippie** (carpenter).
- **Ute:** utility vehicle, pickup truck
- **Yeah ... no:** this means no
- **No ... yeah:** this means yes

>>> ski snowy peaks, but the truth of the matter is, what I do is work; it's a crazy amount of work. Whether that means charging camera batteries at gas stations and fast food chains, carrying a good 60 pounds of gear miles into the mountains, working 18 hour days weeks on end, crossing waist deep arctic rivers, spending months behind a computer planning, logging, and editing, or sleeping in the back of a Subaru with two guys for a week. It's not as sexy as everyone thinks, but when the perfect shot lines up after months of preparation in some of the most incredible places on earth all the hard work and pain is worth it.

"Screech!" The brakes on the landing gear engage and I jostle awake. I arrive to a beautiful, surprisingly hot *arvo* (see *slang translator*) in exotic Brisbane, Australia. After all, isn't it winter? It's June 2 in the Southern Hemisphere.

Wait, did I say "exotic?" That's right, my preconceptions were totally blown out of the water! On the list of most inaccurate perceptions of places around the world, Australia has to rank in my top two, probably behind my misunderstanding of the Amazon River's colossal size (fun fact: The Amazon is 250 miles wide near its mouth, and certain sections that are only one mile wide during the dry season swell to 30 miles wide in the wet season).

The first place I travel is to the Glass House Mountains — a group of eleven hills that rise abruptly from the coastal plain on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. The road up from Brisbane meanders through the misty rolling hills, eventually leading to Rustic's base house. It's nothing fancy, but feels right. The inside is loaded with artifacts, trinkets, and furniture from all over the world. Great for instilling a sense of exploration and adventure in the clients. Sweet as (see *translation*)!

The land down under has a wide range of activities owed to the fact that it is the fifth largest country in the world. Believe it or not, Australia is bigger than the United States. But, as is true with most destinations, it is the rich culture and people that make it worth experiencing and traveling to. The aboriginal peoples have a fascinating culture and have been living in Australia for more than 40,000 years, with more recent evidence suggesting possibly as long as 60,000 years or more.

One interesting nuance of life in Australia that doesn't go unnoticed is how their diction is full of idiosyncrasies; a fun challenge to try

and understand. There is something special about the accent and abbreviations that makes everything they say sound either sexy, funny, or astonishingly correct.

One of my first nights in the Outback I got back from a sunset hike with the students and my Australian co-guide, Anthony, excitedly told the group, "Mate, I was keen to wrap my laughing gear around a snag sanga topped with buckets of dead horse, so I chucked on my thongs, went outside, and whipped on the barbie. I grabbed a softy from the esky, next minute this bloody ripper croc jumped out of the billabong! Mad as a cut snake, it was! Thankfully my mate was there to save the day. Good on ya Mel, she's a true blue Sheila."

We all looked at him like a grenade just went off, dumbfounded by what came out of his mouth. The whole group paused a minute then burst out in laughter. Anthony was still so excited by the crocodile that he forgot to translate his story into "American" English. A few moments later he clarified his slang: "Guys, I really wanted to eat a sausage sandwich with lots of sauce, so I put on my flip-flops, went outside and turned on the barbecue. I grabbed a soda from the cooler, and the next thing I knew, this great crocodile jumped out of the waterhole! It was crazy! Thankfully my friend was there to save the day. Thanks Mel, you're a genuine woman." It was an unforgettable moment and one that prepared me for the rest of the summer.

Looking back on the two months, one lasting impression was how vibrantly green many areas of the country are ... not the red, dry, barren desert wilderness I expected to see. I think it is a common misconception Americans and other travelers have of the continent. Most media, whether it be pictures or movies of Australia, focus on the outback. The outback is the vast, remote,

arid interior of Australia. The term is generally used to refer to locations that are comparatively more remote than those areas colloquially called "the bush," which can refer to any lands outside the main urban areas. In reality, the outback does make up a large portion of the landmass, but Australia has many other climates as well. The southeast and southwest corners have a temperate climate, and the northern part of the country has a tropical climate, varied between rainforests, grasslands, and part desert.

I spread my time equally across the Northern Territory, Queensland, and New South Wales. My perception of the fifth largest content changed immensely from pre-departure to present. I returned home to Truckee with a greater understanding of the complex culture, language, history, geography, climates, and peoples of Australia. My horizon expands with every new place I visit and new experience I obtain, adding to my ever-growing reservoir of knowledge. Something tangible that can't be gained from scrolling through Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, or even reading a book. To travel the world for work most of the year and then be able to come back home to Tahoe makes me realize how unique and special the area is. It is not until you are away for an extended amount of time that you truly realize what an incredible place it is to live. Even though I've been searching long and hard for a comparable location to Truckee/Tahoe, I am starting to think it may not exist; nevertheless, I still have 133 countries to go!

You can follow Matt's recent work and travels on instagram @tahoematt or on his website [tahoematt.com](http://tahoematt.com)

\*Go online and search for 'Flakes of Folklore' — a short film that brings you to one of the most remote corners of the world through the unlikely of narrators. (P)

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# Tempting, but Troublesome

## The concern over artificial food dyes

Australian researchers once conducted an experiment in the best setting ever — an ice cream parlor near the beach. Over the course of a month, they offered customers the same 14 flavors, but on randomly selected days certain flavors were offered in colored and uncolored versions.

The results were clear: A colored ice cream sold three times better than an uncolored one. This isn't really surprising. As humans, we're primed to choose foods that look fresh and appealing. While this probably helped our hunter-gatherer ancestors pick the ripest berries and freshest greens, today those instincts lure us into filling our grocery carts with foods in dazzling reds, sunburst yellows, and electric blues.

In the fruit and veggie aisle, bright colors are a good thing. But elsewhere in the grocery store, they're often a sign that a food has been enhanced with a color additive.

Some colorants are natural, originating from plants or even insects. Others are synthetic dyes, such as petroleum-based Red 40 and Yellow 5 lake (lakes are water-insoluble dyes).

All color additives require FDA approval, so we assume they're safe. But over the years, more artificial dyes have been banned than any other type of additive, mostly due to cancer risk. All of the most commonly used dyes on the market today have tested positive for DNA mutation in at least some of the studies.

The FDA finally admitted in 2011 that artificial dyes can cause ADHD



**PRACTICAL WELLNESS**  
By Linda Lindsay

symptoms in some children, but the agency is too influenced by the food industry to remove the dyes from the market or require warning labels.

Artificial dyes can also cause allergic reactions, particularly in people who have other allergies or sensitivities or are genetically predisposed.

Unfortunately, many of the eye-popping foods on grocery shelves are marketed toward children. For some kids, and their parents, this is a problem. Since the 1970s, artificial dyes have been connected with causing ADHD symptoms in some children.

No one knows this better than the parents of an affected kid. Or, in the case of the Hainline family, two kids. Long-time Nevada County resident Rhodi Hainline began letting her children have occasional treats, like popsicles, around toddler age.

"At first, we didn't know why they quit listening and had meltdowns. It took a while to figure out that food dyes were the trigger."

Nine major reviews of the research have confirmed the connection, particularly in kids who already have ADHD. But a well-designed UK study, published in *The Lancet*, found that even some kids who *didn't* have ADHD experienced behavioral problems after ingesting just 20 to 25 mg of dye. This is about *half* the amount found in a cup of cherry Kool-Aid (50 mg) or two tablespoons of chocolate

confetti icing (41 mg).

"It only took one popsicle or a few Jolly Ranchers," said Hainline, "and their emotions and physical sensations were magnified. Normally, my daughter might pull off a sock if the seam was bugging her. After eating food dyes, she'd pull off the sock, cut

labels are now required on dyed foods. Not wanting the kiss of death that a warning label might mean for sales, many companies reformulated their products. But those same companies still use artificial dyes when selling the identical products in the U.S.

Thanks to growing consumer awareness, Kellogg, Mars, Nestle, General Mills, and other companies have voluntarily replaced dyes with safer



(left) **14 FLAVORS:** Over the course of a month, Australian scientists offered customers the same 14 flavors, but on randomly selected days certain flavors were offered in colored and uncolored versions. What were the results? greggr/bigstockphoto.com

(above) **BE WARNED:** The FDA admitted in 2011 that artificial dyes can cause ADHD symptoms in some children, but the agency has yet to remove the dyes from the market or require warning labels. Pavsie/bigstockphoto.com

it up, yell and scream, and pull on her hair."

The Hainline kids, now 16 and 20, still avoid food dyes. If they slip? "One gets headaches and can't focus. The other gets overly stressed about everyday things like homework, or running late."

In the European Union, warning

colors in some of their products.

Food dyes are unnecessary, and can trick consumers into thinking they're getting real fruits or veggies in cereals, beverages, muffins, blueberry pancake mix, and carrot cake, to name just a few. Since artificial dyes are mostly found in junk food, you — and your kids — will be better off avoiding them. ☹

## WHAT'S NATURAL, WHAT'S NOT ...

**ARTIFICIAL DYES** are found in cereals, bars, fruit roll-ups, soda, candy, ice cream, baked goods, and pet foods, as well as cosmetics and drugs, including children's cough and cold medicines.

- **Red 40** — The most widely-used dye, found in thousands of (junk) foods.

- **Yellow 5** — The second-most common. Can cause allergy-like sensitivities, especially in people sensitive to aspirin. May be contaminated with carcinogens.

- **Yellow 6** — Third-most widely used. Causes adrenal and kidney tumors in animals. May be contaminated with carcinogens.
- **Blue 1** — Crosses the blood-brain barrier and may affect neurons.
- **Blue 2** — Some evidence that it causes brain cancer in male rats.

### NATURAL COLORS

- **Fruit and vegetable juices** — Beets, blueberries, elderberries, carrots, etc.
- **Beta-carotene** — The pigment in

orange-yellow produce.

- **Spices** — Turmeric, paprika.
- **Annatto** — From seeds of a tropical bush, often colors cheddar cheese. Commonly causes allergic reactions (in the form of hives).
- **Carmine or Cochineal Extract** — From cochineal insects, native to Peruvian cactus plants. Yields red, pink, or purple colors. Used in some candy, ice cream, beverages, cosmetics, and drugs. Usually safe, but can cause severe allergic

reactions in a small number of people.

### NATURAL ORIGIN, BUT CHEMICALLY ALTERED

- **Caramel color** — Used in colas, baked goods, soy sauce, pre-cooked meats, and beer. Made by heating sugar with certain compounds that can yield carcinogens. Coca-Cola and Pepsi recently reduced the carcinogens in their products to within Prop 65 thresholds.



# Johnny Chickadee Cache

## The resourceful winter bird

**S**ure, you could leave, take the easy way out. Head south the moment you start taking your down coats out of the closet, the moment the temperature

drops to 28 degrees, the moment you start dreaming of sand and surf and blended drinks with tiny paper umbrellas. You could leave the dark, cold winter behind and take flight. Or ... you could stay. Just like the little white, black, and gray guy with the black Zorro mask who's often seen hanging upside down on a tree branch. The little bird that's been singing to you all spring, summer, and fall, the overly-loud-for-such-a-small-bird song: dee-dee-dee, cheeeese-burger, cheeeese-burger.

Unlike the western tanager, Wilson's warbler, calliope hummingbird, house wren, and many other local birds that migrate south for the winter, the mountain chickadee remains. And much like us stockpiling a pantry for the long winter ahead, the chickadee fills its cupboards too. It gathers Jeffrey and lodgepole pine seeds (and western white pine and mountain hemlock at higher elevations) from September through November, stores the seeds in hiding places called caches, and then all winter long retrieves its hidden meals, by sheer memory.

To glean the seed, the chickadee



BY EVE QUESNEL  
Moonshine Ink

tries to reach between the pinecone scales, to grab the wing attached to the seed that helps them disperse with the wind, — and pulls it out. They also collect seeds that have fallen on branches from already opened cones.

They then cache them in cracks or holes or the underside of bark, relatively close to where they find the seeds as they move from tree to tree. It's been said that the little acrobat can cache up to one thousand seeds in one day with a potential range of 60,000 to 90,000 seeds in one fall season.

The most remarkable part of the mountain chickadee's caching process is its memory, researched by a team of scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno. Professor Vladimir Pravosudov along with his Ph.D. candidates Carrie Branch and Dovid Kozlovsky and Ph.D. student Angela Pitera at the Cognitive and Behavioral Ecology Lab at UNR spend their days (months and years) monitoring chickadees both in the field and in their lab.

"Spatial location" is the team's specialty, determining the differences in memory between low elevation and high elevation chickadees, and how these differences are related to survival and reproduction. To do this, Pravosudov and his grad students monitor more than three hundred nest boxes at the Sagehen Field Station located 8.4 miles north of



**OPERATION:** To glean the seed, the chickadee tries to reach between the pinecone scales, to grab the wing attached to the seed that helps them disperse with the wind, and pulls it out. They also collect seeds that have fallen on branches from already opened cones. Photo by Vladimir Pravosudov

Truckee. There, they test memory in hundreds of birds and track their survival. Some boxes are set near the station itself, at 6,200 feet; others are placed above Sagehen on Carpenter Ridge, at 8,000 feet. Their research has found that the higher elevation chickadee's hippocampus (the part of the brain involved in spatial memory) is larger than the lower elevation chickadee's. Meaning, the higher elevation bird remembers its cache locations better than the lower elevation chickadee, due to it being more reliant on food in a higher, harsher climate.

Part of the study at UNR is in determining how the chickadees locate their caches. Branch says, "They have 'mental maps.' They remember things in the landscape in relation to other things in the landscape. While flying over an area, they'll observe and remember certain markers, such as a specific group of trees." After finding the cache, the chickadee takes the conifer seed to a safe location,

away from its competitors — other chickadees, nuthatches, or Steller's jays — and eats the seed in private.

"Based on caloric estimates, they need less than they cache to survive the winter," Pravosudov explains, "I'm not sure whether they need just half or more than half of what they cache, but they certainly over-cache relative to their needs."

I find much solace in knowing the Poecile gambeli stays here in the winter with us. There's a tradition in it, a reliability. Its intelligence (and memory!) and fortitude speak to ingenuity. There's much we can learn from this little four-seasons bird. Yep, it's time all right, time to get ready for the snow.

For more information, check out the UNR website that follows Pravosudov's research: chickadeecognition.com.

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# MENTAL GAME

## THE GROWING POPULARITY OF BRAIN TRAINING AND SPORTS

BY DAVE ZOOK  
Moonshine Ink

“The brain is an organ, like the heart. We often work on cardiovascular training to increase fitness, so why not train the brain?” said Katie Townsend-Merino, a former psychology professor who teaches mindfulness-based stress reduction courses at the Center for Health and Sports Performance at Tahoe Forest Hospital.

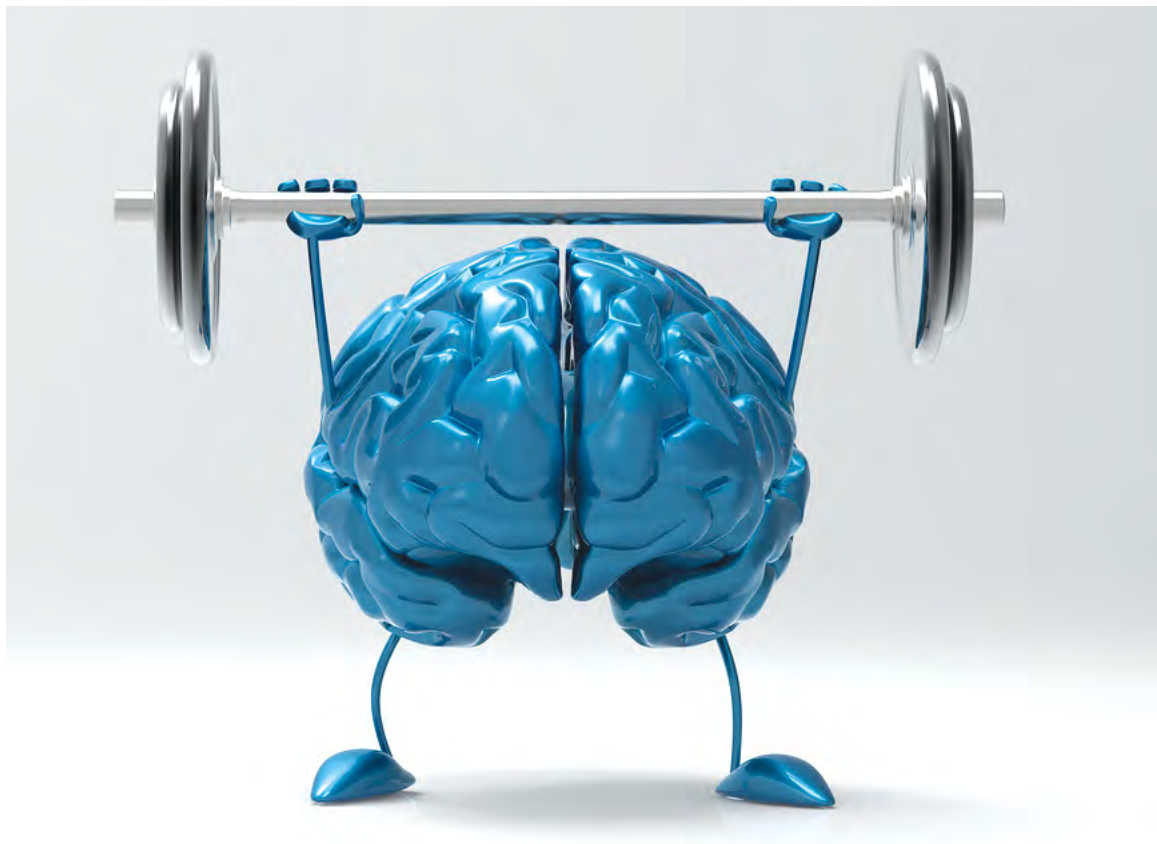
Her sentiment reflects the simple logic to getting our brains into their best possible shape, because doing so makes us happier and better at what we want to do. And increasingly, this strategy is being applied in sports to give athletes — from the recreational level to the professional — an added edge.

While the concept of “above the neck” training is not a new one, technological advancements, science, and shifting attitudes are pushing it more toward the mainstream, with Tahoe/Truckee — as a competitive sport-loving community — situated nicely to reap the rewards.

EVOLVING MENTALITIES

Direct brain training efforts are not necessarily part of most athletes’ daily bag of tools. But experts from personal trainers to sports psychologists to the world’s leading fitness gurus tout the benefits of brain training, and believe it can be done without investing significant time or retooling your overall approach to sports.

Visualization, breathing techniques, concentration exercises, self-talk, and medi-



“ABOVE THE NECK” training has been proven to significantly boost performance. bigstockphoto.com/julos

tation are some of the more common practices.

“It comes down to the ability to change our minds, and it can be done ... though it doesn’t happen overnight,” said Scott McRae, the co-founder of Tahoe Peaks Athletic Club in Truckee. He incorporates mental training techniques with the classes they teach, and notes that the higher the level of athlete he works with, the more interest they have in improving their brains. He believes building

confidence to be the biggest overall benefit to working on the brain.

An applicable example to nearly anyone is injury recovery and wanting to get back to 100 percent strength. He notes that post-injury, the brain can naturally work against the quest to return to normalcy. “When you relive injuries, the memory gets lodged deeper into your brain, and that rehearsal in your mind can make it very real to your brain,” McRae said.

In this scenario, he employs visualization to help the client picture the level

he or she would like to be at, and talks through it during exercise, as well as making recommendations for additional practice outside the workout. “If you’re thinking about doing your activities well when you’re going to bed, you’ll be fine. If not, it’ll tear you up, and that’s where visualization becomes effective.”

BUT I DUNNO IF THAT STUFF IS FOR ME, MAN

Mental training techniques can seem like New Age mumbo-jumbo to some, perhaps in part because the practice can be rooted in actions like sitting and breathing versus direct action, but trainers and others fully believe in the results.

“Not everyone’s into it, but I think it’s going to grow,” said Dr. Yani Dickens, a sports psychologist at the University of Nevada, Reno, who provides consultation services to student athletes. “I’m hoping athletes and coaches continue to become more open to these techniques in the future.”

Goal setting, imagery, and diaphragm breathing are among the techniques Dr. Dickens uses when working with athletes from a broad range of collegiate sports. Her work spans from focusing directly on maximizing athletic performance to working with athletes who may be suffering from high stress, anxiety, or depression.

Several factors show that our culture may be becoming more accepting to mental training.



BALANCING challenge and skills at just the right ratio is what produces flow, a state of optimal performance. Courtesy image



## SPORTS & OUTDOORS

>>> Smartphone apps such as Headspace and Mindfulness (meditation apps), and Headtrainer (a cognitive sports performance app, endorsed by big name pros) are downloaded by the millions. Townsend-Merino believes the ability for people to utilize these services in the comfort of their own home will help grow the popularity of brain training.

Professional sports teams are also more frequently hiring mental coaches, which has the potential to trickle down to the common athlete. A 2015 *New York Post* article cited that at least 12 Major League Baseball teams hire mental health pros who help players with issues from struggling in their career to life challenges off the field. While the work done at the professional level takes on a different form than for the recreational athlete (the crushing emotions of a big loss and subsequent media scrutiny, for example), it indicates a changing trend.

Dr. Robb Gaffney, a former top-level skier at Squaw and a practicing psychiatrist in Tahoe City, agrees there is a shift happening. "Certainly the stigma surrounding mental health is dropping off, and that opens a lot of doors," Gaffney said.

### GO WITH THE...

The mention of flow states — a happy place of peak physical performance — is coming up more often in the conversation around mental training. They're a complicated neurological event involving the brain's chemicals, but are essentially what is felt when in the zone, or experiencing a runner's high. The activity becomes effortless and time seems to slow down, among other enjoyable effects. Athletes win championships while in flow states, and scientists want to nail down how to reproduce them; not just for athletes, but for everybody.

See **FLOW** p. 34

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**The Streets of Truckee,  
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Friday, Nov 18  
**Guitar Town**

Fri-Sat, Nov 25 & 26  
**Joe Grissino**

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## SPORTS & OUTDOORS

**FLOW** from p. 33

"Flow carries within it delicious possibility. In the state, we are aligned with our core passion and, because of flow's incredible impact on performance, expressing that passion to our utmost," writes *NY Times* bestselling author Steven Kotler in his book about flow states, *The Rise of Superman*.

Kotler's book — credited with bringing publicity to flow states — turns the attention to the meteoric gains seen in action sports in a relatively short amount of time, and posits that a main reason for this is that these athletes are proficient in tapping into flow states — often times out of necessity due to the dangers involved in their sport. (In the book, Tahoe is referred to as a hotbed for breeding flow states, shown mainly through the careers of Shane McConkey and Jeremy Jones.)

Gaffney — who went from finding flow on Squaw's hardest lines to finding it during meaningful conversations in the workplace — points out that while flow's positive benefits are incredible, he hopes it can be applied to all levels of sports and life. "Flow states, as they are discussed in the action sports world, are unilateral, and that's when it becomes a little dangerous," Gaffney said, referring to a concern that flow is intertwined tightly with high-risk sports. "The reality is, it's happening to skiers on the mountain at every level, and we need to expand our vision of flow."

Kotler and his team hope to not only do just that, but also create a way for anyone to learn how to access flow. He co-founded the Flow Genome Project, which has a goal to "map the genome of flow by the year 2020 and open-source it to everyone," according to the website.

With available tools like mindfulness classes, personal

training with a brain training focus, a handful of high-tech apps, and a national effort to get the mysteries of flow mapped out for the masses,

the time is now to clear our heads and boost our performance to new levels.



## 17 FLOW TRIGGERS

TO HACK INTO THE FLOW STATE

### (4) PSYCHOLOGICAL TRIGGERS



### (3) ENVIRONMENTAL TRIGGERS

1 High Consequences 2 Rich Environment 3 Deep Embodiment

### (9) SOCIAL TRIGGERS



### (1) CREATIVE TRIGGER

"Creativity triggers flow, then flow enhances creativity."

FLOW 101: The 17 triggers of flow, considered the peak state of physical performance. Courtesy photo



# Libra Artist

Sierra High principal  
Greg Wohlman's artistic side



**YOUR CANVAS**  
By Greg Wohlman

Greg Wohlman came to Truckee from Alaska in 2014 after accepting a job in the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District as the Principal for Sierra Continuation High School, Cold Stream Alternative, and Educational Options. As a previous school administrator and a certified art teacher, he calls Truckee home and is beginning his third year with TTUSD, and 18th year in education.

During a painting and creative spree when living in Las Vegas more than 10 years ago, Greg Wohlman created and sold 30 large scale paintings on canvas. He believes that all people should be able to own original artwork and enjoys creating paintings for homes and businesses — he offers commissioned work and a gallery of paintings on [libraartist.com](http://libraartist.com).

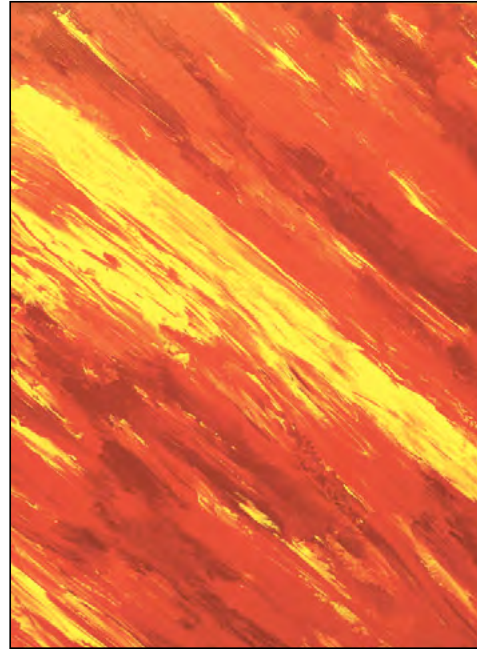
All of his artwork is created with high quality paints on gallery wrapped canvas, so framing is not necessary. The pieces are equipped with heavy duty wire hangers ready for hanging. ☺

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**HEAT GIVEN**; 36" x 48"; acrylic on canvas



**LOGAN'S BREAK**; 50" x 60"; acrylic on canvas



**VIRGIN ISLAND VETERAN**; 36" x 48"; acrylic on canvas



**SARA'S GARDEN**; 48" x 72"; acrylic on canvas

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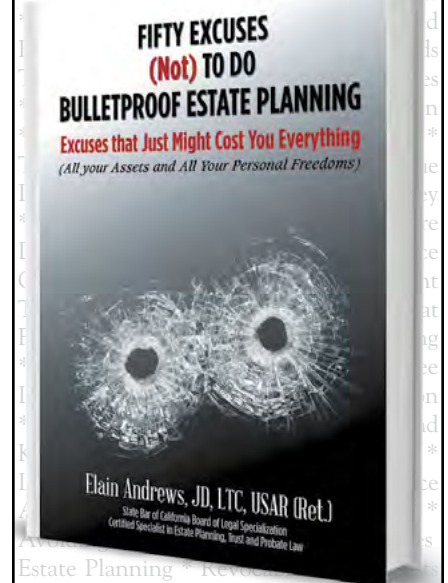


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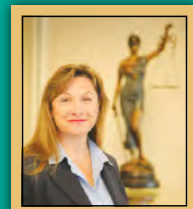
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# Go GREEN for the holidays!

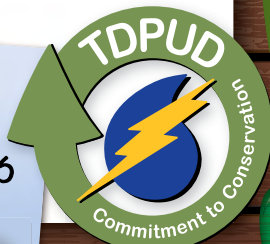
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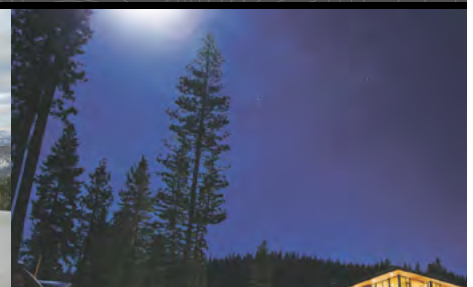
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(Clean, undecorated trees only, please! Place in TTSD Bins)

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Cut in 3ft segments & place next to trash.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** from **Keep Truckee Green & Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal**



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# HOLIDAY HANDBOOK

You hold in your hands the Tahoe Holiday Handbook, a guide to the holiday season, brought to you by Moonshine Ink. Let the handbook be your knowledgeable guide for all things holiday in Tahoe. Be sure to pick up the December installment as well — it's hitting the streets December 9 with all new content. Happy Holidays!

## 4 | Timber!

Everything you need to know about cutting a Christmas tree on national forest lands

## 6 | The Resort Report

New happenings at our Tahoe ski areas

## 8 | Powder Day Friends

How to prepare for a winter in the Tahoe backcountry

## 10 | Winter Forecasting

We may not always be right, but we're never wrong

## 12 | Quick Bites

Eight holiday cocktails using local nectar

## 14 | What To Buy For Whom

A flowchart guide to shopping local

## 17 | What's Happening

Featured community events and announcements

## 19 | Get Out & Go

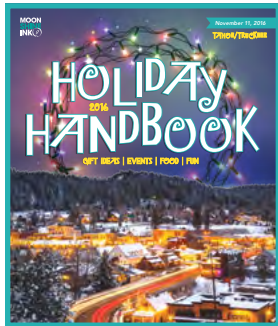
*It Ain't Pretty* film showcases women of Mavericks

## 21 | Get Out & Go

Small Business Saturday

## 22 | Book It!

Three local personalities capture their passion in newly published works



### NIGHT LIGHTS

#### ABOUT THE PHOTO |

Historic Downtown Truckee photographed a few weeks before Christmas 2015.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST |

Scott Thompson of Scott Shots Photography is a local landscape and commercial photographer. Large prints of his work are available at the Vista Gallery or online at [scottshotsphoto.com](http://scottshotsphoto.com).

#### PUBLISHER & SALES

Mayumi Elegado

#### ADVERTISING SALES

Julie Stanley

#### WRITERS

Ally Gravina

Abby Stevens

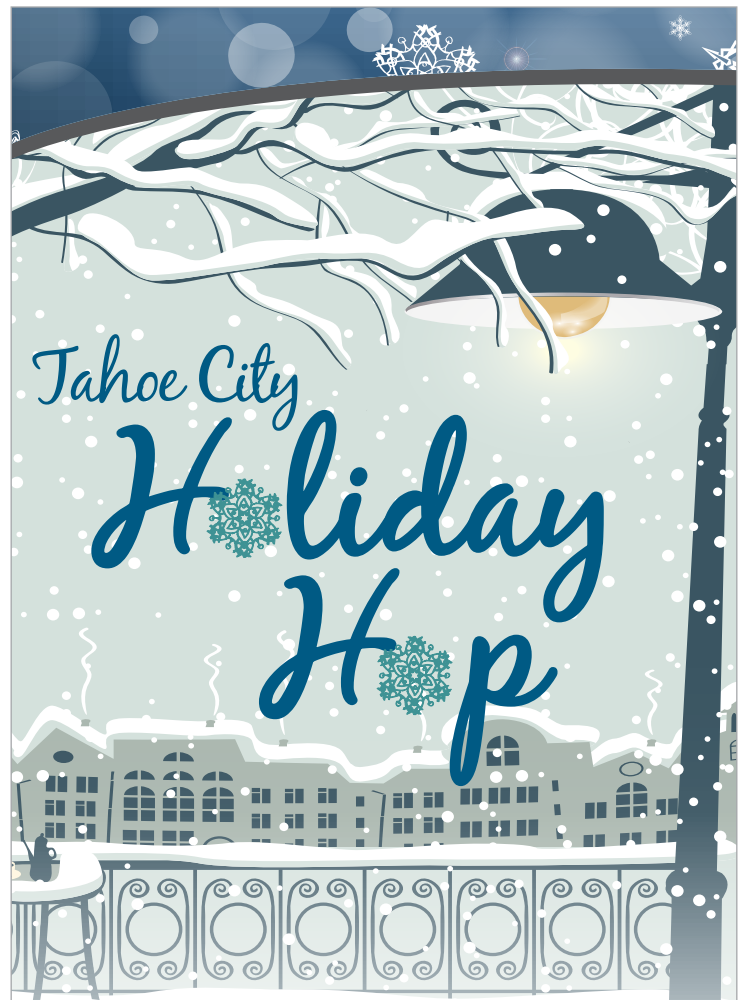
Dave Zook

Andrea Bartunek

Meghan Robins

#### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lauren Shearer



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# TIMBER!

## Everything you need to know about cutting a Christmas tree on national forest lands

Christmas tree permits are being offered to the public in an effort to help reduce hazardous fuel ladders that have built up over years of fire suppression. Removal of excessive amounts of small trees from the forest will help create a healthier forest over time. In other words, you get a Christmas tree and help maintain the health of our forest — everyone wins! Here's a rundown of the rules and regulations for Christmas tree chopping, as allowed in the national forest lands of the Tahoe area:

~Ally Gravina/Moonshine Ink

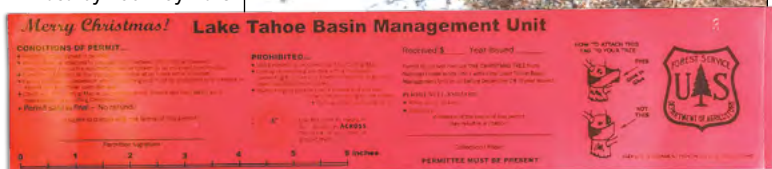
1. There is a limit of two permits per family at a cost of \$10 per tree. Permits are not transferable. You cannot buy someone else's permit.

2. Share the route with family or friends prior to your departure. Tell them when you plan to leave and when you expect to return. Agree what actions will be taken if you don't return as anticipated.

3. To minimize the possibility of being stranded on backcountry roads, be sure your vehicle is in top working order and that your tires have good tread. Prepare for mechanical emergencies by carrying the proper tools, including tire chains, and a shovel.

4. No tree cutting within 100 feet of private residences. This permit does not give authorization to cross onto private property.

**HUNTING TREES:**  
Dec. 2014, (left to right) Janelle Zukowski, Lauren Shearer, Laurel Raymore, and Parker Raymore cut down Christmas trees near Frenchman Lake, Calif. Photo by Paul Raymore



TAG IT!: Sample Christmas tree permit. Courtesy photo

5. You are responsible for determining that cutting is done only within permitted areas.

6. Select a tree that is the right height for your needs. Do not cut a large tree just to take the top. Do not cut any hardwood trees such as aspen.

7. The maximum allowable tree size that can be cut is 6 six inches in diameter at the base of the tree. Trees to be cut must be

within 10 feet of another green tree.

8. Attach the permit to the tree (where it will be seen) prior to transporting the tree.

9. Scatter all discarded branches away from roads, ditches, and culverts.

10. Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible, leaving a stump of six inches or less. (P)



istockphoto.com/Richard McGuirk

### TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR TREE FRESH

- Re-cut the trunk at an angle one to three inches above the original cut.
- Prior to decorating, store the tree outside in a container of water, out of direct sunlight.
- Add a few tablets of aspirin to the water (about two per gallon), but don't let the dog drink it!
- Don't be concerned if the water in the container freezes, the tree will be fine.
- When you bring your tree into the house, re-cut the base at least 1" above the angled cut.
- Be sure to keep water (with aspirin) in the tree stand at all times.

### CHRISTMAS TREE TRIVIA\*

- Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since about 1850.
- In 1979, the National Christmas Tree was not lit except for the top ornament in honor of the American hostages in Iran.
- Since 1966, the National Christmas Tree Association has given a tree to the President and first family every year.
- Christmas trees generally take 6-8 years to mature.
- They are grown in all 50 states including Hawaii and Alaska.
- 100,000 people are employed in the Christmas tree industry.
- 98 percent of all Christmas trees are grown on farms.
- More than 1,000,000 acres of land have been planted with Christmas trees.
- 77 million Christmas trees are planted each year.
- You should never burn your Christmas tree in the fireplace. It can contribute to creosote buildup.
- Thomas Edison's assistants

hatched the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees.

- Teddy Roosevelt banned the Christmas tree from the White House for environmental reasons.
- In the first week, a tree in your home will consume as much as a quart of water per day.
- California, Oregon, Michigan, Washington, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina are the top Christmas tree-producing states.

\*Source: History Channel



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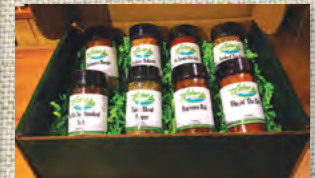
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# THE RESORT REPORT

## New happenings at our Tahoe ski areas

**W**ith 15 downhill ski areas at all compass points around the Tahoe/Truckee area, we invite you to take your pick. From the swingin' night clubs and gambling at South Lake's Heavenly Mountain Resort to the cozy ski-right-above-the-water feel at Homewood Mountain Resort on the West Shore, there's something for everyone. Here, we highlight a few of the new happenings at each of Tahoe's downhill resorts — this is just a sample, check their websites for the full enchilada!

### DONNER SUMMIT AREA

#### Boreal Mountain Resort

Easy access, ample beginner runs, and slick terrain parks make Boreal a favorite. For extra-smooth corduroy and jumps, the mountain purchased two brand-new high-end grooming machines. Late start to the day? Boreal's night skiing runs until 9 p.m. with soon-to-be improved LED lighting.

#### Tahoe Donner Downhill Ski Area

*(Including Cross Country)*

Ahhh, more breathing room. The acquisition of Crabtree Canyon in April by the Tahoe Donner

Association will add 16 kilometers of trails to the Tahoe Donner Cross Country area this winter. Plus, skiers at the downhill area will reap the benefits of a new state-of-the-art snowmaking system, installed last winter.

#### Sugar Bowl Resort

Sugar Bowl wants to get you into the steeps of their backcountry offerings — or the not-so-steeps, if that's your style. Guide company Alpine Skills International operates out of Sugar Bowl and offers a plethora of single-day or multi-day trips, avalanche education courses, and more.



**EXPLORE** the ample terrain of Sugar Bowl's sidecountry, pictured here, with Alpine Skills International's guiding services. Photo by Grant Barta



**REVEL** in the luxurious offerings at Northstar California, with dining, shopping, ice skating, and ... skiing! Courtesy photo

#### Donner Ski Ranch

Tubing and skiing is what Donner does best. They remain one of California's last independent resorts, and with affordable slope-side accommodations and dining, it's everything a family needs.

#### Soda Springs Mountain Resort

To help conserve water, Soda Springs will continue its Recycled Water Initiative, launched last winter. Yes, it recycles wastewater for snowmaking purposes, but has a \$24 million UV distillation investment behind it that creates pathogen-free, crystal clear H<sub>2</sub>O that is cleaner than surface water.

### NORTH LAKE AND WEST SHORE

#### Northstar California

Get into the luxurious swing of things at Northstar. There

>>>



>>> are dining options at the mid- and upper-mountain levels, and heaps of food and shopping in the village. There's also an ice skating rink, a bungee trampoline, and a movie theater to complement the on-snow fun. They've also revamped their app — the EpicMix Time — to keep you tuned in to all of the mountain's goings-on.

## Alpine Meadows

Fun events await at Alpine, from the early season to the slushy spring. Junior big mountain competitions, ski-golf (just like it sounds), alpine racing, and more fill the calendar for the skier or rider looking to do a little spectating in between ripping their legendary terrain.

## Squaw Valley

Squaw's biggest ski event in years — make that decades — will happen March 9 to 12 with the return of Alpine World Cup ski racing. Local Olympian Julia Mancuso will compete in the women's giant slalom, alongside the biggest names in ski racing. The event will include concerts, fireworks, and parties.

## Granlibakken Tahoe

The little history-rich resort that could, Granlibakken is an affordable and less-known getaway. A sledding ticket is just \$16, and a ski ticket \$30. With lodging deals throughout the season, and Tahoe City just minutes away, it's an easy and tranquil option.

## Homewood Mountain Resort

Homewood Snowcat Adventures is back for a second year offering rides above and beyond the resort's chairlift-accessed slopes, and onto the flanks of Ellis Peak. Plus, free daily s'mores await everyone at the adjacent West Shore Café at 4:30 p.m.

## SOUTH AND EAST SHORE

### Diamond Peak Ski Resort

Diamond Peak is looking foxy at 50. Their golden anniversary year features a Wednesday 55+ ski clinic series, guided after-hours snowshoe hikes, expanded offerings at Wild Bill's BBQ at Snowflake Lodge, decade-specific costume parties, and more.

### Sierra-at-Tahoe

Sierra loves the newbie crowd, and has expanded their SMART TERRAIN environment featuring designated, sculpted slopes perfect for beginners. On the flip side, they dislike disposable water bottles and have partnered with Vapur — makers of the re-useable "anti-bottle" — and installed refillable water stations around the mountain.

### Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe

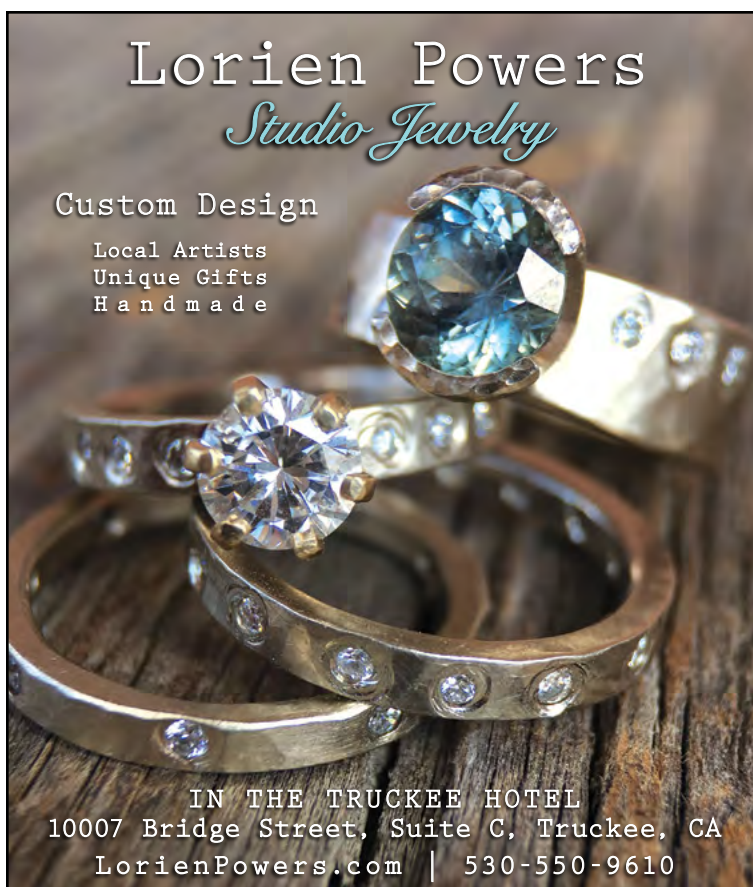
Significant snowmaking investments help Mt. Rose open early. Additionally, the resort went up for sale in January, so if it fits your budget, you can get that extra (extra) special someone a ski resort for the holidays.

### Kirkwood Mountain Resort

Trust us, you want to take advantage of Kirkwood's unique terrain. Expedition: Kirkwood, the mountain's flagship instructional program, is designed to expand the boundaries of mountain exploration and offers numerous services, including daily mountain guide services and private snowcat tours.

### Heavenly Mountain Resort

You might need a serious coffee intake to keep pace at Heavenly. Between the nightlife and chairlifts, it's a nearly 24/7 endeavor. To really take it to overdrive, you can hop on a conference call between turns to keep the bosses happy at the Tahoe Mountain Lab, a shared workspace at Heavenly's Lakeview Lodge. ☕



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# FRIENDS ON A POWDER DAY

**EARN YOUR TURNS:** West Shore resident Anthony Santos skis the East Shore of Lake Tahoe during sunset. Photo by Adam Ryan

**BY MEGHAN ROBINS**  
Moonshine Ink

Many of us have lost a friend or friend of a friend (the degree of separation hardly goes further). Too many to count. Winter is coming, and for the first time since I was a child, I am not all consumed by giddiness. Instead, a trickle of dread has crept in. Preparing for winter also means preparing for what might happen.

Think long and hard about this.

There was a phrase once used: “No friends on a powder day.” I’ve said it. It may help amateurs believe they are pro. But when I worked at Alpenglow Sports, a guy rushed in to buy a beacon (something that should be a long and thoughtful process). I explained that owning one doesn’t do any good if you don’t know how to use it, so he

huffed out. He didn’t have time for me. I assume he’s okay, but this attitude is dangerous for our entire community.

There are more people in the backcountry. Whether you resent or revel in it, we all must do our part. Notice who’s above you, and what’s below. Understand snow conditions for yourself and encourage your friends to do their homework. Just because there’s a skin track doesn’t mean you’re following a genius. If you haven’t already taken an avalanche course, sign up. There are endless resources in our area, most notably Sierra Avalanche Center. SAC offers great online refreshers and lists providers of courses that cost between \$400 and \$500 (the price of a college course, which is essentially what it is). SAC also has a free 1-hour

video online called *Know Before You Go* about “how you can have fun in the mountains and avoid avalanches.” If you plan to enjoy the backcountry this winter, start preparing no matter what season we’re in.

Practice these habits well before the snow flies:

**1 Be a Trip Planner** — Dedicate a notebook as your trip planning book and answer these

questions:  
What’s the weather like up there? Is there already snow on the ground? Is



**GEAR PREP:** Knowing your backcountry kit inside and out before you go helps to ensure safety. Photo by Meghan Robins/Moonshine Ink



>>> it new? Is it windy? Are temperatures warm or cold? How's visibility? How high are we going? Who's going with us? How long will we be out? What's our objective?

Answering questions like these the night before allows you to assess conditions and make informed decisions; it ensures your partners are on the same page and creates a clear plan for others to know where and when to expect your return. Meeting your friend for coffee the morning of and asking, "Where to?" leaves too much room for error and oversights. Purchase an American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) book with comprehensive lists of pertinent questions.

**2 Practice Using Your Gear** — In case an avalanche or injury does occur, be confident in yourself and your partners' abilities to handle the situation. Pack, unpack, and assemble your probe and shovel; hide avalanche transceivers around the yard, positioning them at all angles to mimic various body positions. Understand how your beacon works, as practicing these movements now can save precious seconds later. If you ski with an airbag, put your gloves on and practice pulling the handle. (With reasonable notice, Alpenglow Sports will refill your canister for free.) Store your beacon in a dry place and remove the batteries. Even if you're going out the next day, remove your batteries and replace them with well-charged or new ones. Bad movies start with sentences like, "30% battery power is enough, let's go!"

**3 Read** — *Snow Sense* is a \$10 avalanche safety refresher. Get a copy and read it every time you

think of snow. *The Avalanche Handbook* is a more comprehensive and detail-oriented study guide worth reading. Complacency is a killer. Just because you successfully skied a line last year doesn't mean it will be the same. Skiers, like climbers, should check their smarts and gear every single time. No matter how skilled you are, stay vigilant and take precautions; even the best climbers have gotten complacent, finished the best climb of their life, then belayed off the end of their rope. Tie a knot at the end of your rope by studying for winter now.

Whether you're new or a veteran to backcountry skiing, feel confident asking questions like "Want to practice with our beacons and then plan tomorrow's trip tonight?" Or insisting, "this looks dangerous, let's turn back." Or stating, "I don't feel comfortable. I'm going to drink hot chocolate today instead." All of these sentences should be easy to say. All of these should be easy to hear.

If you see something foolish, or hear irresponsible talk at the bar, remember those people might be dropping in above you. Kindly ask if they've renewed their avy course lately, practiced with their beacon, shovel, and probe? Encourage SAC's Know Before You Go mentality, because thinking for yourself could save you and your friends. I recommend the phrase "no friends on a powder day" become extinct in our mountains. We are a community and must act like one before and after every storm. Be the person who plans ahead of time and encourage your friends to do the same. Because in the backcountry, friends are all you have. (P)



## GIFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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# WINTER FORECAST 2016-17

We may not always be right, but we're never wrong

Welcome to your acronym-light, wholly subjective, and largely unscientific guide to how the winter of 2016-17 will (maybe) play out in Tahoe. Two things that you already know: Winter is hard to predict, but people do it anyway. We figured we can't beat 'em, so we joined 'em, and gathered eight sources who made either specific forecasts for Lake Tahoe, or national

BY DAVE ZOOK  
Moonshine Ink

predictions. We plotted their forecasts on a spectrum of the lowest to highest recorded snowfall levels, as measured on Donner Summit, and included a reliability quotient on the vertical axis for good measure. We also plugged in our own prediction, but readers should be aware we have a tough time remembering if La Niña is the one with the cold water or the warm water.

## 1 The Old Farmer's Almanac

"With rainfall below normal in most of California, the drought there will continue," says its 2017 forecast. Dang. These old farmers have been at the prediction game since 1792 and claim an 80 percent accuracy rate, but before hope is lost, perhaps the haziness of "most of California" will play out in our favor, especially due to the stone-cold fact that some of Tahoe is not even in California.

## 2 Farmer's Almanac\*

Balmy and wet are the two words used for the entire region of California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona. In a slightly more specific statement it claims that "another active storm track from the Pacific will deliver a dose of above-normal precipitation across the Western states." However,

these apparently younger farmers have only been at the forecasting game since 1818, notching their experience factor down a few points.

\*Yes, it's a different thing than the *Old Farmer's Almanac*.

## 3 Bryan Allegretto/ Open Snow

Our own BA. The people's champ. Allegretto makes daily micro-forecasts down to the inch for the various Tahoe resorts, and we appreciate that. His thoughts? "I think that 85 to 92 percent of average snowfall is a good starting point," he wrote in a post that discussed possible winter outcomes, one with a downright academic amount of graphs, radar images, and acronyms at that. The fact that he went with 92 percent on the upper end instead of 90 makes us think he is deadly serious.

## 4 Chris Tomer

Tomer is a meteorologist with some serious chops, but it appears he is based in Denver, which is a tad dubious. Nevertheless, he told the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*: "I'm forecasting for Lake Tahoe roughly 350-400 inches," adding that areas closer to the lake should do well, and mentioned Sierra-at-Tahoe, Heavenly, Northstar, and Squaw as examples. Hmmm, Sierra-at-Tahoe? That resort's a good deal farther from Big Blue than Homewood or Diamond Peak. Just sayin, Chris.

## 5 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The heavy-hitter of the weather game, NOAA, has coined our favorite phrase of the season: "Equal chance." As in, "The rest of the country [Lake Tahoe included in this] falls into

the equal chance category, meaning that there is not a strong enough climate signal in these areas to shift the odds, so they have an equal chance for above-, near-, or below-normal temperatures and/or precipitation," according to NOAA's website. We can only shrug our shoulders at that one.

## Tahoe Weather Blog

6 The TWB, administered by a "biotech computer programmer and avid snowboarder," says this: "I look for slightly above average snowfall this year." Thank you, sir or ma'am, we hope you know more than NOAA.

## Powderchasers

7 The folks at Powderchasers spend a lot of time actually chasing storms and snow, making us think they are straight shooters.

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Works by Natasha Stanton

TRUCKEE TAHOE COMMUNITY CHORUS  
SIERRA COLLEGE

# Holiday Glow Concert

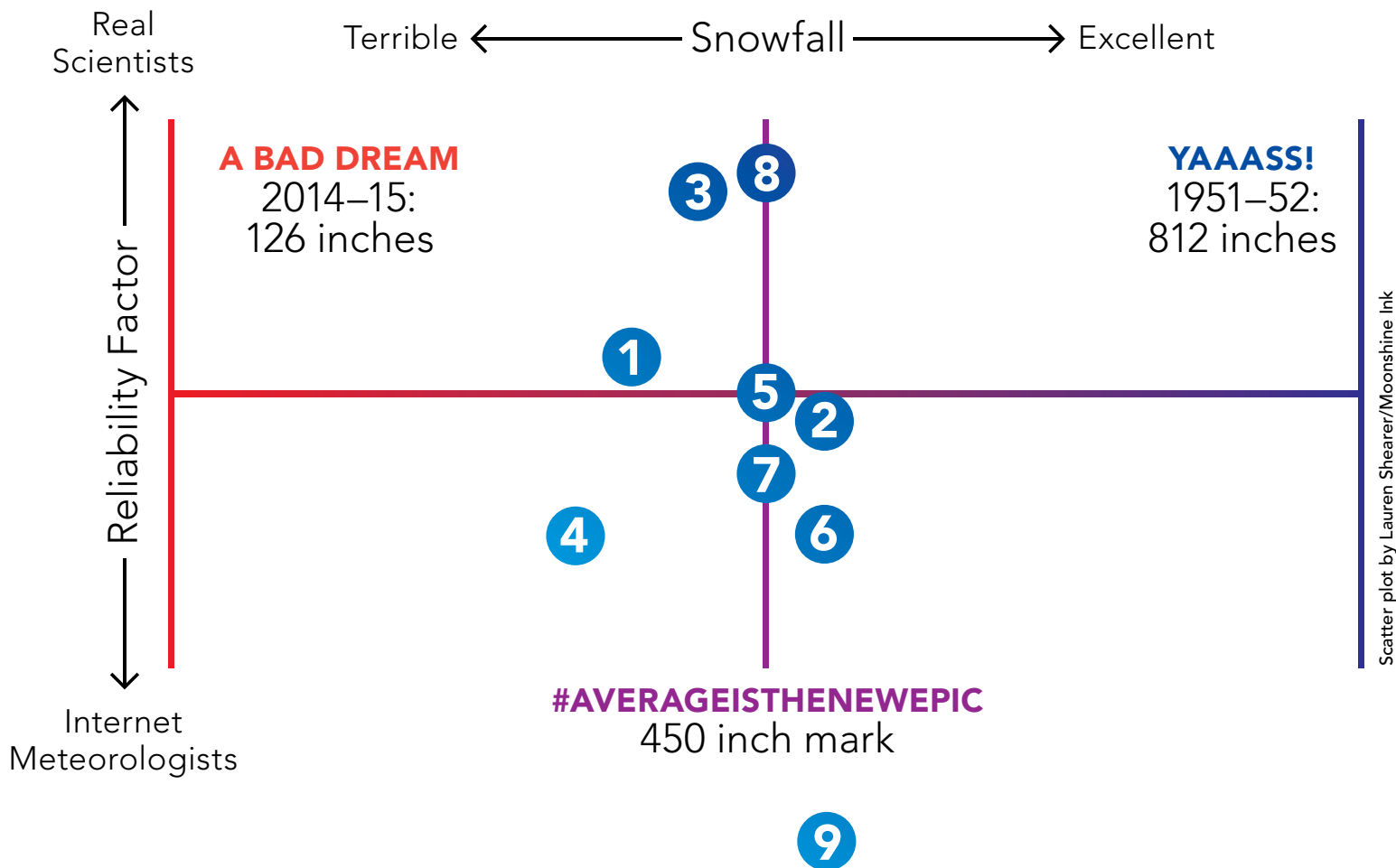
Saturday, Dec. 10, 7pm | Sunday Dec. 11, 2 pm  
RESORT AT SQUAW CREEK

Favorite songs old and new featuring the Truckee Youth Chorus, the Christmas Time String Quintet and a holiday singalong! Directed by Susan K. Horst. A Truckee Tradition!

Advance tickets \$15 before Dec. 1st, \$20 at the door, 18 & under \$5

[WWW.TRUCKEECHORUS.ORG](http://WWW.TRUCKEECHORUS.ORG)





In a country-wide forecast post, they mention our region by saying: "Tahoe is my wildcard." Another headscratcher there.

#### Mark McLaughlin

**8** McLaughlin is an award-winning, nationally

published author, with seven books and more than 750 articles in print. When he speaks, Tahoe listens. In an article for the *Tahoe Weekly*, he wrote: "2017 looks to be an average winter, which in the Tahoe Sierra is pretty darn

good." Truer words have never been spoken.

#### **9** Moonshine Ink

Are you still reading this? We are optimists here at *Moonshine*, and after crunching the data, we love that some

are calling for above-average snowfall, and choose to align with that crowd. So here it is: "Lake Tahoe will end up a few clicks above average snowfall levels, with equal chances we will see our first 1,000-inch winter."

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# QUICK BITES

## Seasonal Cocktails Using Local Nectars

BY ALLY GRAVINA  
Moonshine Ink

The below list of holiday cocktails includes variations of every type of drink you could possibly imagine, and, because holidays and cocktails are basically synonymous, we suggest you sample a few of these crafty creations. These concoctions are best enjoyed beside a fire, in large batch for a potluck, or sipped mid politically-charged dinner table discussion. No matter your drinking setting, enjoy!



**TAHOE BLUE VODKA** is made with water from Lake Tahoe, distilled in Mountain View, Calif., and bottled in Sparks. Their blend of sugar cane, grape, and corn makes the vodka 100 percent gluten free.

### TAHOE HANDWARMER

1 ½ oz cinnamon-infused Tahoe Blue Vodka (see recipe below)

5 oz hot cocoa or apple cider

Serve in a coffee mug and garnish with cinnamon stick or whipped cream.

### CINNAMON-INFUSED TAHOE BLUE VODKA

Add 2 short (2 to 4") or 1 long cinnamon stick per bottle of TBV and allow 3-4 days to infuse.

### TAHOE PUMPKIN PIE

1 ½ oz Tahoe Blue Vodka

¾ oz Godiva White Chocolate Liqueur

¾ oz Disaronno Original amaretto

½ oz Saint Elizabethan Allspice Dram

Mix all ingredients in a cocktail shaker and shake it like it's your mission in life, strain into a classic martini glass and give it a sprinkle of pumpkin pie spice (if available). Experts say this drink is best served fireside while large flakes of snow drop from the sky outside. ~ Recipe by Nicole Barker

### WHITE REINDEER

1 ½ oz Tahoe Blue vodka

3 oz Amara Cream liquor

¼ oz crème de cacao

Mix and serve over ice in a rocks glass.



### TAHOE MOONSHINE

is located at 6,200 feet on the California side of South Lake Tahoe. These guys distill a variety of spirits including vodka, whiskey, rum, and gin. Their unique flavors include peanut butter vodka and cinnamon whiskey along with the classics.

### PEANUT BUTTER RUSSIAN

1 2/3 oz Tahoe Moonshine Peanut Butter Vodka

2/3 oz Kahlua

1 oz Organic cream

Top with whipped cream and serve on the rocks.

### OLD FASHIONED STORMIN' WHISKEY

2 oz Tahoe Moonshine Stormin' Whiskey

2 dashes Select bitters



Green Art Photography/bigstockphoto.com

1 Sugar cube

1 Orange wedge

Mix sugar and bitters in a glass. Drop in orange wedge and pour in whiskey. Fill with ice.



### FOLK KOMBUCHA

is authentic slow-brewed, single batch kombucha that does not use artificial flavors or extracts. As a result, all FOLK Kombucha flavors

can be used on their own, over ice, as delicious non-alcoholic mocktails; or, try the cocktails below.

### STRAWBERRY RHUBARB PIE

Muddle 2 strawberries at bottom of glass

Add ice

Add 1 oz Tuaca liquor

Add 1 oz gin

Fill with Rhubarb Black Pepper Kombucha

Stir and serve on the rocks in a cocktail glass.

### JASMINE BELLINI

1 oz St. Germain

3 oz champagne

Fill with Jasmine Flower Kombucha

Stir and serve in white wine glass or champagne flute and garnish with edible flower float.

### LAKE TAHOE ICED TEA

1 oz dark rum

1 oz Jägermeister

1 oz vodka

Fill with Roots N'Culture Kombucha

Serve on the rocks in a cocktail glass, garnish with two pieces of candied ginger on a wooden cocktail stick/stirrer.



Highlight Your Business



# HOLIDAY 2016 HANDBOOK

*Special Pull-Out Section Coming This December*



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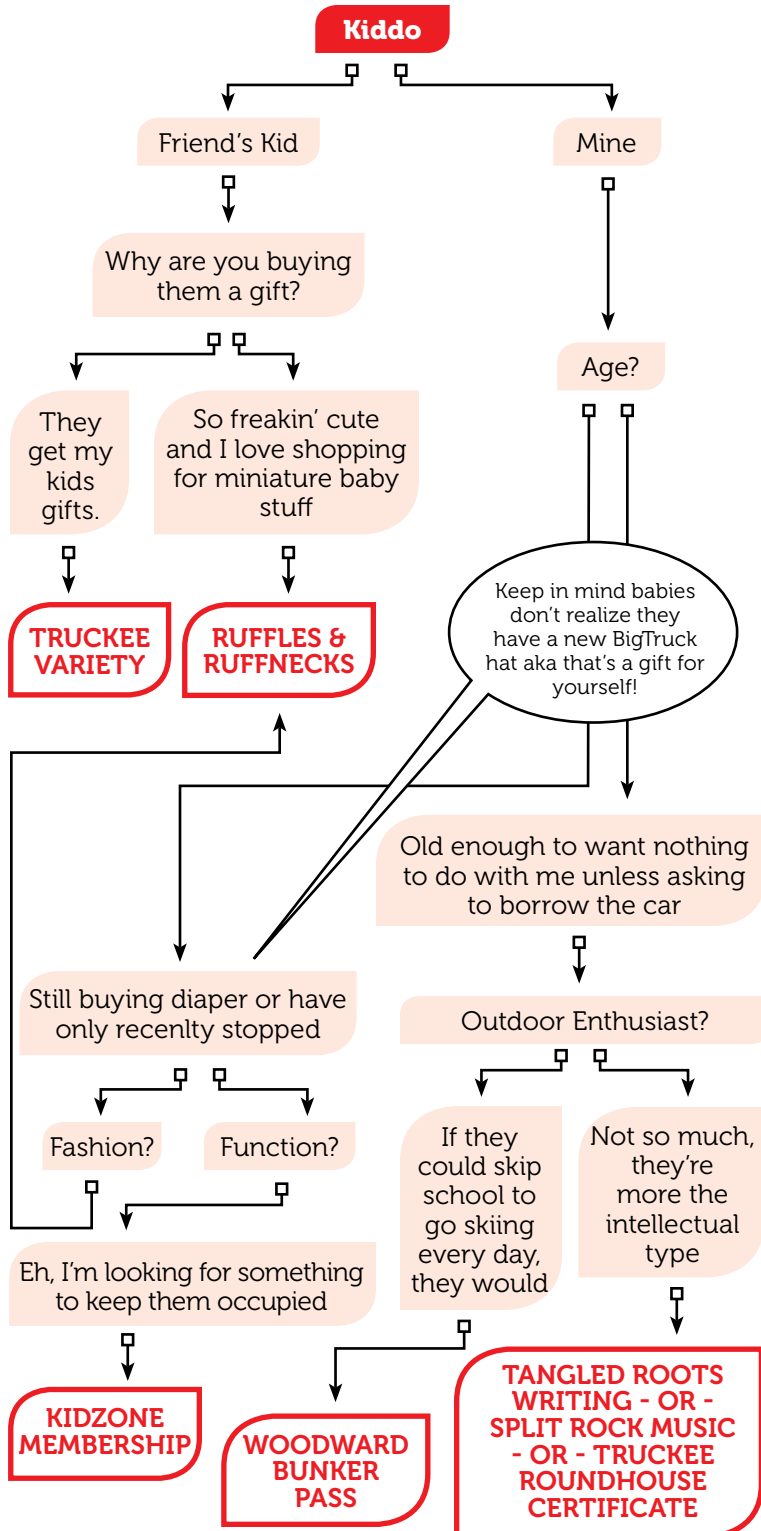
P.O. Box 4003 | 10137 Riverside Dr. | Truckee, CA 96160 | moonshineink.com



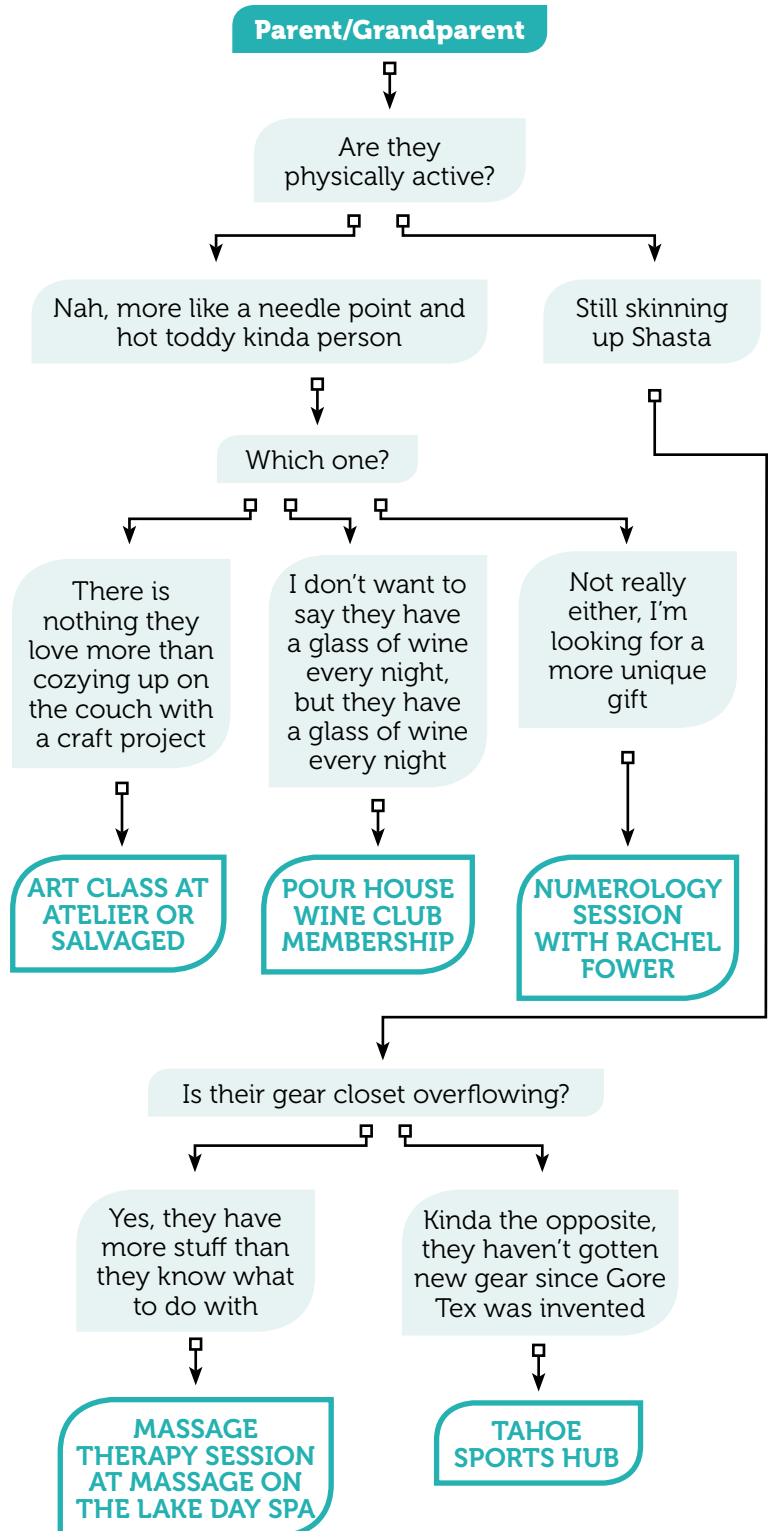
# WHAT TO BUY FOR WHOM?

A holiday gift guide flowchart for many on your list

## Kiddo

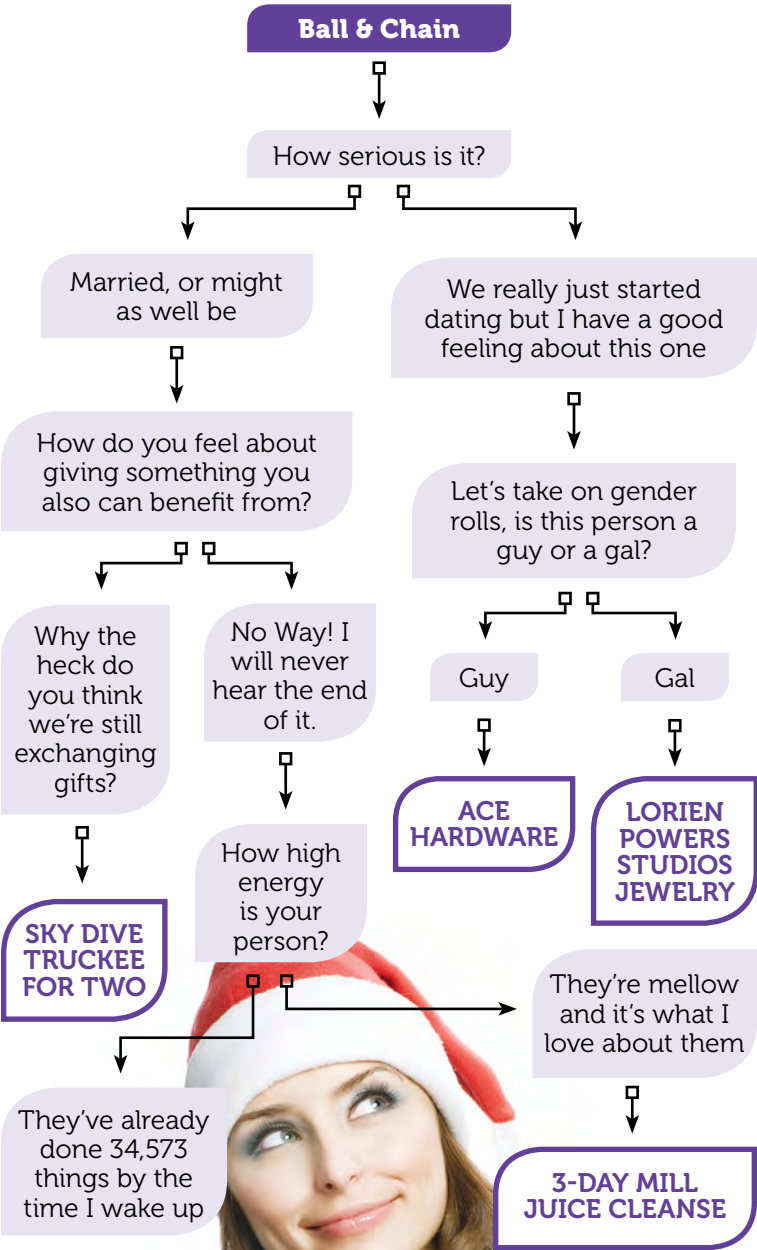
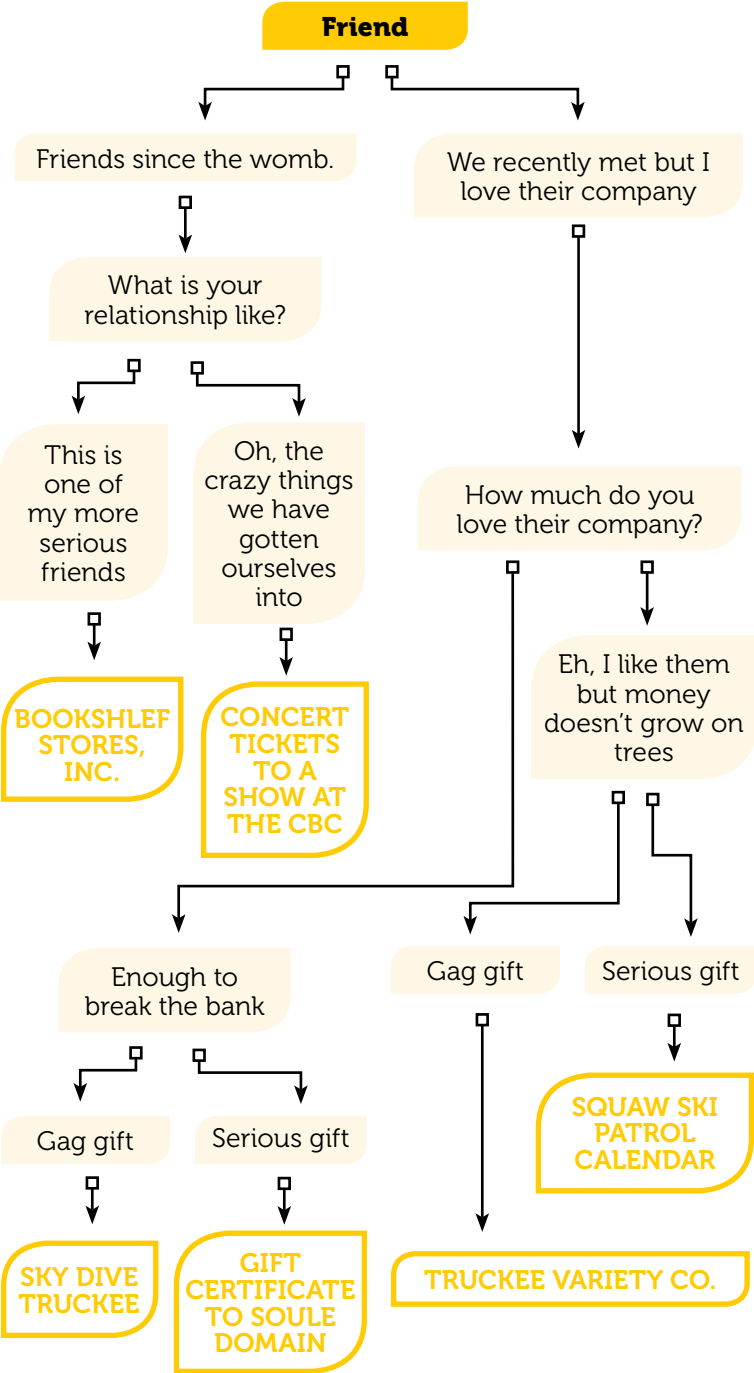


## Parent/Grandparent



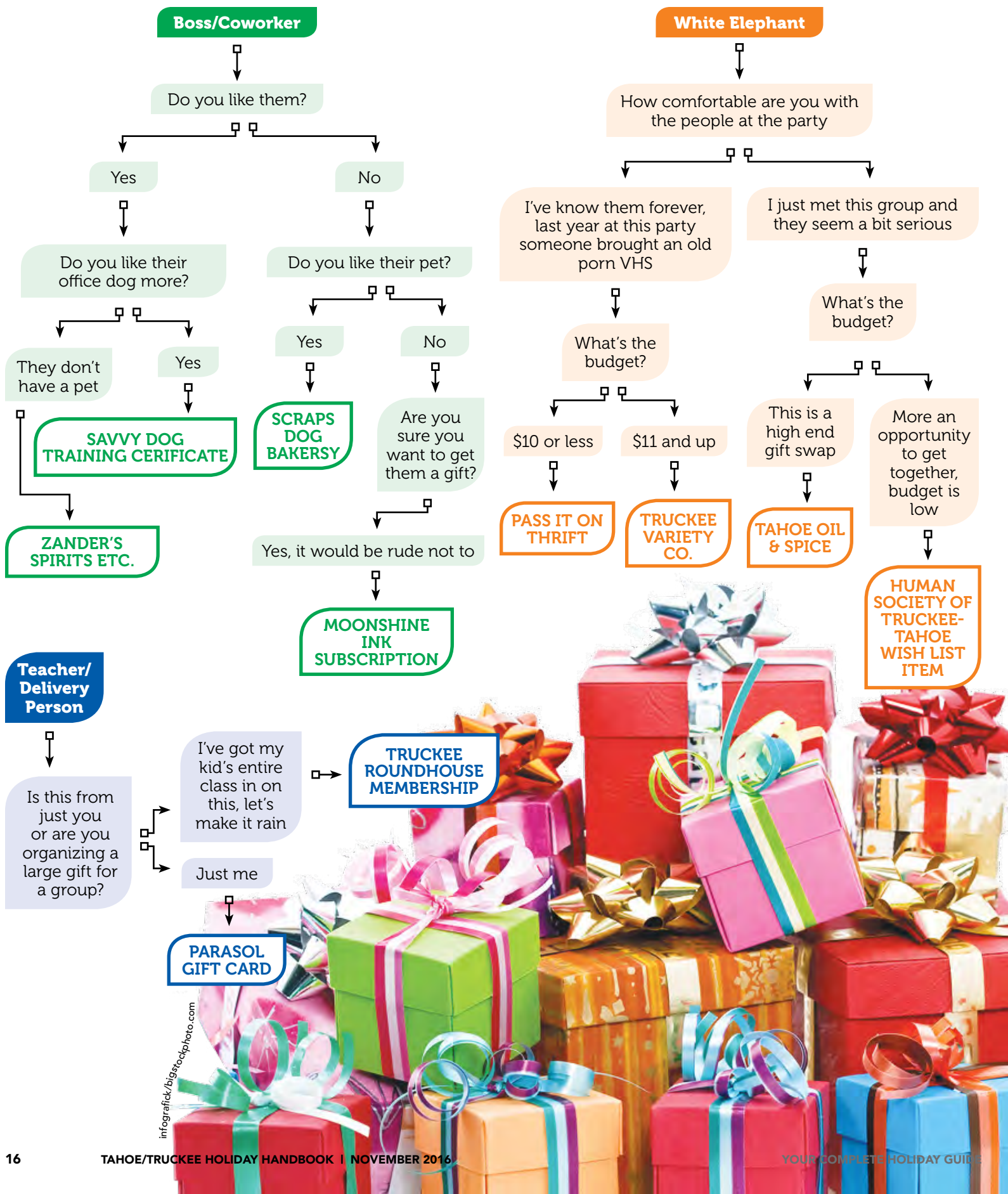


Shopping for gifts during the holidays can be a headache, in more ways than one, but that feeling of finding the perfect gift is undeniably great — even for the biggest grinch and scrooges of the group. We created this handy-dandy chart to hopefully take some of the stress out of holiday shopping, all while encouraging shopping local. This chart leaves readers at different shops throughout the area. If you're still stuck once you arrive, we suggest enlisting the advice of the shop keepers. And, don't forget to pick up a copy of the December Holiday Handbook to learn how to wrap your presents using *Moonshine Inks*, you have already read, of course. Who are you shopping for ...



Subbotina Anna/bigstockphoto.com







# HOLIDAY TAP CALENDAR

**WEDNESDAYS and  
THURSDAYS, ALL MONTH  
LONG**

## COMMUNITY | **Spanish Classes**

Spanish classes for one- to five-year-olds involving finger play, chanting, songs, and dance. The adults in the class learn right along with the children. Info: \$18/ drop in, \$102/6 weeks; 11:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 5 to 5:50 p.m., Conecta Tahoe, Truckee; 9:30 to 10:20 a.m., Kings Beach; conectatahoe.com

**Nov. 12 and 13**

## COMMUNITY | **Girls**

### **Giving Back Fundraiser**

Visit Le Nails for a manicure or pedicure, and the owners will generously donate 20 percent of the proceeds to the Girls Giving Back fund. The Tahoe/Truckee based youth group focuses on philanthropy and has successfully launched its first annual youth grant cycle. Info: all day long, Le Nails and Spa, 10015 Palisades Dr., Truckee

**Nov. 13, 27 and Dec. 7**

## MUSIC | **The Streets of Truckee**

Locals' talented favorite Richard Blair puts on a dinner show with all original songs that celebrate Truckee's history. Enjoy a special meal while watching this impressive re-enactment. Info: \$45/person, seating at 5 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m., Cottonwood Restaurant, Truckee, truckeeblair.com

**Tuesday, Nov. 15**

## ARTS & CULTURE | **Meet the Author**

The author of the 2016 Nevada Reads book *Grind* Mark Maynard will be at the Incline Village



**NOV. 30 TO DEC. 4:** James Cameron's *Avatar* comes to life in this Cirque de Soleil performance, a fantastical show that is not-to-miss. Courtesy photo

library for a book discussion. *Publishers Weekly* raves, "Throughout the volume's eight tenuously linked tales, lives and fortunes are lost, and the city of Reno emerges as a locus of shattered souls. Maynard's debut collection bursts with idiosyncratic characters." Info: free, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Incline Village Library, washoecountylibrary.us

**Wednesday, Nov. 16**

## SPORTS | **Winter Predictions and Backcountry Decision-Making**

Come interact with weather forecasters and avalanche professionals to learn about problem-solving real life winter situations during this exciting and innovative session. Representatives from NOAA, The Sierra Avalanche Center, and Tahoe Mountain School will be talking about decision-making as a factor in avalanche incidents. Info: free, 6 p.m., Tahoe Mountain Sports, 11200 Donner Pass Rd., Truckee, tahoemountainsports.com

**Nov. 16 and 17**

## MUSIC | **Yarn and Todd Sheaffer of Railroad Earth**

Two very special nights of musical story-telling and bone-shakin' rock 'n'roll are coming to Tahoe City. Todd Sheaffer will perform a solo acoustic set to kick off each of the two shows followed by two sets with Yarn. There's sure to be some musical co-mingling. Info: \$20, 8 p.m., Moe's Original BBQ, Tahoe City, visittahoecity.org

**Nov. 16 and 30**

## FOOD | **Community Soup Nights**

Slow Food Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Food Hub partner with a local restaurant for community building in an effort to further a more sustainable food community. There will be live music, a raffle, and plenty of delicious soup. Info: \$5/soup and bread, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16, Red Truck Café, and Nov. 30, Mellow Fellow, tahoefoodhub.org

**Thursday, Nov. 17**

## SPORTS | **Alpenglow Sports Winter Film Series #1**

Kicking off this winter's festival will be Dave Nettle and the film *Ski Mountaineering in the Tyrol: Hut to Hut Ski Touring the Stubai Alps*. Armed with the best Euro exchange rate in years, and a lot of ski days under the belt from a fantastic backcountry season in Tahoe, the crew was able to make the most of what the Austrian Tyrol is all about. Info: free, 7 p.m., Olympic Valley Lodge, alpenglowsports.com

**Friday, Nov. 18**

## COMMUNITY | **Bud Fish Tree Lighting and Downtown Holiday Festival**

Celebrate the holiday season with Santa, singing, hot chocolate, and the annual lighting of the trees in Truckee downtown. Info: free, 4:15 to 6 p.m., downtown Truckee, truckeerotary.com

See **TAP CALENDAR** p. 18



**Thursday, Nov. 24****COMMUNITY |****North Tahoe's  
Annual Thanksgiving  
Celebration**

All are welcome to this community Thanksgiving event. To donate to the cause bring an unwrapped toy, canned goods, or a potluck dish to share. There are opportunities to help cook, decorate, clean up, or serve food during the event. Info: \$2/suggested donation per person or \$5/suggested donation per family, 2 to 6:30 p.m., North Tahoe Event Center, [visittahoe.org](http://visittahoe.org)

**Friday, Nov. 25****COMMUNITY | Notoriously  
Non-Existent No-Go Gala**

Don't worry about getting dressed up, hiring a baby sitter, eating a sterno-warmed chicken, or forcing small talk. Each ticket to this no-go gala, which raises funds for public art and education in Truckee, enters purchasers in a raffle to win cool prizes, and the ticket itself is a beautiful, limited edition piece of art. Only 300 tickets will be sold to increase the odds of winning. And you don't even have to leave your house to "attend." Info: \$25 minimum donation, tickets on sale at Truckee Donner Community Recreation Center, Gallery 5830', Backstreet Framers and online at [TDRPD.org](http://TDRPD.org)

**Nov. 25 to Dec. 24****COMMUNITY |****Show Your Love —  
Shop Local Holiday  
Contest**

Calling all shoppers! Buy your friends and family local gifts this year for a chance to win a North Lake Tahoe Staycation valued at \$1500 or \$500 in cash. Enter by picking up a contest card at any participating retailer in Truckee/North Lake Tahoe. Get a sticker on your card with any \$25 purchase from participating retailers. Shoppers with 12 stickers will be entered to win the grand prize. Info: free to enter, [shopnorthtahoetruckee.com](http://shopnorthtahoetruckee.com)



**NOV. 16 AND 30:** Warm up with delicious locally made soups on these nights dedicated to community conversation and good food sourced with a conscience. Courtesy photo

**Nov. 25 and 26****MUSIC | The Bonanza Kings**

Come sway along to this Northern California swing band at Moody's. The fabulous five-member group is not-to-miss. Info: free, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Moody's Bistro, Bar & Beats, [moodysbistro.com](http://moodysbistro.com)

**Nov. 25, 26, and Dec. 10****ARTS & CULTURE | Here, There  
& Everywhere Screening**

Warren Miller's 67th film brings the thrill of action snow sports to enthusiasts everywhere. Narration by Olympic gold medalist Jonny Moseley and on-screen interviews with the legendary Warren Miller deliver the nostalgia of skiing's roots and a zeal for discovering new terrain. Info: \$14, 7:30 p.m., Olympic Village Lodge, Squaw Valley, [warrenmillermovie.com](http://warrenmillermovie.com)

**Saturday, Nov. 26****SPORTS & OUTDOORS |****Wilderness Survival:  
Winter Skills**

Join REI Outdoor School for a wilderness self-reliance class that could save your life. During this class you will learn practical tips and strategies that every outdoor traveler should know, including

about winter emergency kits and shelters. Info: \$70/members, \$80/non-members, Donner Summit Sno-Park, [rei.com](http://rei.com)

**MUSIC | Sierra Rose Strings**

Come hear this talented strings trio including Ellen Flanagan on violin, Kati Dayner on viola, and Joseph Tatum on the cello. The group will be performing pieces from Mozart, Beethoven, and Dohnányi. Info: free, 7:30 p.m., Art Truckee, [ejflanag@gmail.com](mailto:ejflanag@gmail.com)

**Nov. 26 and 27****FAMILY | Santa's  
Holiday Hunt**

Calling all kiddos! Join in this fun scavenger hunt with lots of goodies to be found along West River Street including a gift bag with Northstar California lift tickets. Santa will be at Tahoe University passing out the scavenger hunt lists. Info: free, 1 to 5 p.m., Tahoe University, 10015 West River Street, Truckee, [tahoe.university](http://tahoe.university)

**Nov. 30 to Dec. 4****ARTS AND CULTURE | TORUK  
— The First Flight**

*Cirque du Soleil* presents this new touring show that is inspired by

James Cameron's *Avatar*. Through a riveting fusion of cutting-edge visuals, puppetry, and stagecraft buoyed by a soaring cinematic score, *Cirque du Soleil* applies its unique signature style to James Cameron's imaginary world. Info: \$25 to \$110, 7:30 p.m., Golden 1 Center, Sacramento, [cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com)

**Thursday, Dec. 1**  
**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**| Ribbon Cutting  
for Truckee  
Roundhouse**

Come celebrate the opening of the Truckee

Roundhouse, the area's first makerspace. Anyone can become a member of the Roundhouse and have unlimited access to the five shops to work with metal, wood, ceramics, textiles, and electronics. The much anticipated space will be open to the public with demonstrations of a wide variety of tools. Info: free, 5 to 7 p.m., Truckee Tahoe Airport, [truckeeroundhouse.org](http://truckeeroundhouse.org)

**SPORTS | Alpenglow Sports  
Winter Film Series #2**

In the second installment of this year's festival, alpine climber Will Gadd will present his show *30 Trips of a Lifetime in 60 High-Speed Minutes*. Gadd's techniques for ice climbing are cutting-edge, and he will be available for questions after the film. Info: free, 7 p.m., Olympic Valley Lodge, [alpenglowsports.com](http://alpenglowsports.com)

**Dec. 1 to 4****ARTS & CULTURE |  
Tahoe Film Fest**

The Tahoe Film Fest features film screenings all around North Lake



# GET OUT & GO | Film Showcases Women of Mavericks

Nov. 18, Olympic Valley

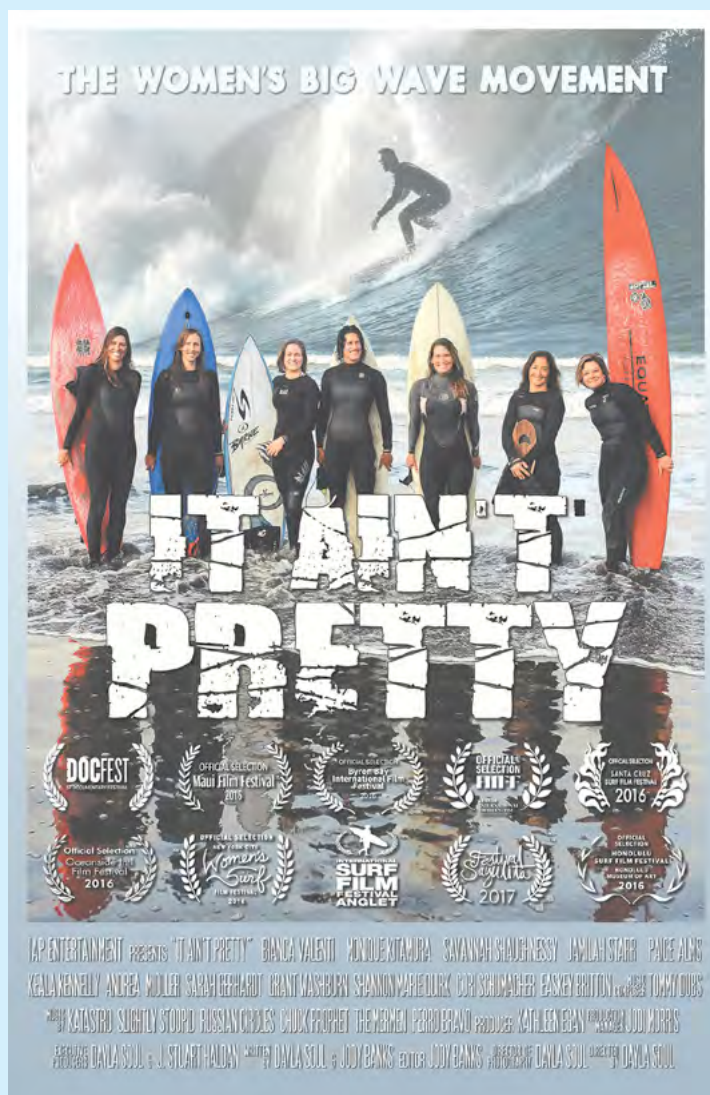
Women in the surf world have had a tough battle getting the publicity and sponsorship dollars of male surfers, and to leave behind the bikini-clad image that is ingrained in the culture.

A new surf movie by producer Dayla Soul aims to advance this conversation. *It Ain't Pretty* follows three years of the lives of a group of women surfers based in the Bay Area. It's set at Ocean Beach, a break

**"STATISTICS ACTUALLY SHOW WAY MORE VIEWERSHIP ON WOMEN'S BIG WAVE SURFING THAN MEN'S."**

characterized by heavy surf, ruthless currents, and generally chaotic conditions. Then, just 20 miles to the south lies Mavericks, one of the world's most celebrated big wave arenas, where top-tier big wave surfers flock every winter.

"This film documents a new movement in the Bay Area that is rippling throughout the world. The next generation of female surfers is defined by how women are portrayed in the media. Told through the lens of surfing,



**THE BOLD WOMEN** of *It Ain't Pretty* shine in the documentary that focuses on Bay Area surfers

this film is about creating new role models based on ability and determination," Soul said, who has lived and surfed in the Bay for years.

The movie arrives at a pivotal time. The annual Titans of Mavericks contest, which attracts the best surfers in

the world, has been under scrutiny for years for not having a women's division, and is discussed in the film in a segment called *Titans of Tomorrow*.

Recently, it was decided that for the 2016-17 event, there would be one women's

heat with \$30,000 in prize money up for grabs. While this change was celebrated as an advancement, many were surprised that one of the film's stars, Bianca Valenti — who is considered a pioneer at Mavericks — was not selected as one of the official contestants, but as an alternate, in case of injury.

One of the barriers to more advancement of women's big wave surfing is that there is less interest, but Soul says that is a myth. "Statistics actually show way more viewership on women's big wave surfing than men's, although the coverage and money don't equal that ... I wanted to spark a larger conversation about where inequality lies throughout, and not just surfing, but looking at it through the lens of surfing," Soul explains.

Several of the athletes, including Valenti, will be at the movie for a Q&A after the film, which is presented by the Squaw Valley Institute. In addition, there will be an opportunity to meet several female ski patrollers from the Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows team. They will also be selling and autographing their 2017 Women of Ski Patrol calendar with photography by local photographer Keoki Flagg.

~ Dave Zook/  
Moonshine Ink

**INFO:** \$10/person, SVI members/free, 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18, Olympic Village Lodge, [squawvalleyinstitute.org](http://squawvalleyinstitute.org)



**NOV. 25:**  
You don't even need to leave the house to participate in this gala for a good cause. Each ticket purchased is entered into the raffle including this gorgeous print from artist Eva Nichols, as well as a pair of Coalition Snow skis, a Sugar Bowl Resort mid-week pass, and more! Courtesy photo



light-filled revelry and activities, including glow-in-the-dark face painting, games, and a DJ, with a fireworks spectacular to round out the evening. Info: free, The Village at Northstar, northstarcalifornia.com

## Dec. 10 and 11



### MUSIC | **Holiday Glow Concert**

The Truckee Tahoe Community Chorus is back again this year to ring in the holiday season with favorite songs, old and new, performed by the fifty-voice chorus. The concert will feature the Truckee Youth Chorus, The Christmas Time String Quintet, and a holiday sing-along. Info: \$15/advance, \$20/door, \$5/18 and under, 7 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2 p.m. on Dec. 11, Squaw Creek Resort, truckeechorus.org

Thirsty for more TAP? Go online for a full calendar of events. (P)

## TAP CALENDAR from p. 18

Tahoe. The festival will premiere new environmental films as well as important American independent films, Latin American films, and include a special filmmaker tribute. The festival is presented by Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships, which is dedicated to promoting environmental stewardship. Info: films starting at 5:30 p.m., various locations., tahoeilmfest.org

## Dec. 2 to 4



### ARTS & CULTURE | **Holiday Art Tour Sale**

Explore studios in Glenshire for special deals and holiday pricing. Local artists include Brad Henry Pottery, Vicki Beads & Leather, Sierra Essentials, Krista Tranquilla Studio, and Barbara Glynn Prodaniuk. This tour is a great chance to shop locally this holiday season. Info: free, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., tour starts at 10024 Suffolk Place, Truckee

## Dec. 4, 11, and 18



### COMMUNITY | **Festive Fridays**

Merchants in downtown Truckee are keeping their doors open later on Fridays in December. There will be

promotions, holiday cheer, and discounts galore. Info: 4 to 6 p.m., downtown Truckee, historictruckee.com

## Friday, Dec. 9



### ARTS & CULTURE | **Felted Holiday Ornaments Workshop**

This class introduces a technique known as "dry felting". The workshop focuses on creating holiday ornaments by making a basic circular shape using white fleece and felting needles. The ornaments will then be embellished with colored fleece in a design of your choice. No previous experience required. This workshop is appropriate for ages 11 or older. Info: \$45/ includes materials, 12 to 3 p.m., Atelier Truckee, ateliertruckee.com

## Saturday, Dec. 10



### FAMILY | **Santa's Fly-In**

Watch Santa zoom in to Truckee Tahoe Airport in a special plane. There will be hot chocolate and yummy holiday treats as well as an opportunity to meet Santa! Info: free, 10 a.m., Truckee Tahoe Airport, truckeeatahoeairport.com



### FAMILY | **Northstar Northern Lights Festival**

Returning for the third year, this celebration is an evening of



**NOV. 17 AND DEC. 1:** Alpenglows presents this free film series to the Tahoe community. Among others, this year's films feature ice climber Will Gadd and local skier Dave Nettle. Courtesy photo



# Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 26, North Lake Tahoe/Truckee

Described by *Forbes* as playing hide-and-go-seek between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is arguably one of the most important shopping days of the year. The concept, originally developed by American Express to encourage shopping in smaller, local shops for holiday gifts, is not lost on Truckee/Tahoe business associations.

Nationally, the trend is growing exponentially with *Forbes* reporting the popularity of the shopping holiday having increased 14 percent from 2014 to 2015, reaching \$16.2 billion in sales nationwide. Locally, I'd like to think we were in tune to this concept well before it became a thing, but, just in case, here's a reminder how we can do our part, as members of a small community, to support our own — our neighbors, our friends, our community members.

In Tahoe City, this day-o-shopping takes the pseudonym Holiday Hop and shoppers are invited to browse (and buy) while enjoying wine, snacks, and cheer among participating Tahoe City businesses.

Similarly, the North Lake Tahoe Business Association, Town of Truckee, Squaw Valley Business Association, and Incline Community Business Association are also pushing Small Business Saturday, encouraging residents to shop

**INFO:** North Lake Tahoe Chamber, 100 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, (530) 581-6900, [gotahoenorth.com](http://gotahoenorth.com)



**MAN'S BEST SHOPPING COMPANION:** Invite your furry, four-legged friends to join in on the holiday cheer. Photo by silent A photography

locally on this day (and every day, for that matter).

Cumulatively, the associations listed above participate in Shop North Tahoe Truckee's annual contest, spanning from Black Friday to Christmas Eve, encouraging folks to shop locally by offering enticing prizes. The gist of the contest is this: When you make a purchase at a participating retailer you get a sticker for every \$25 spent. Shoppers with 12 stickers will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a North Lake Tahoe staycation including lodging, dining, and activity(ies) valued at \$1500. Shoppers with four stickers will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 cash prize. In 2014, the contest generated \$400,000 for the local economy, and reduced the carbon footprint of traveling outside our community to shop.

If the idea of supporting local businesses isn't enough to persuade you to shop locally this Nov. 26, think about the

decision in terms of a nice, mature game of Would-You-Rather. Would you rather wait in line the day after Thanksgiving with your stretch pants and a hangover at Walmart, or would you prefer to casually walk around one of Tahoe/Truckee's downtown drags, sipping wine, and running into friends all while

getting a head start on your shopping? The choice is yours.

~ Ally Gravina/Moonshine Ink

## BRAD HENRY POTTERY Holiday Sale

DECEMBER 2-4 | 10AM-6PM

You're cordially invited to attend my Annual Holiday Pottery Sale at my studio in Glenshire. In addition to some of my original patterns, there's a lot of new items that will make great gifts for the holidays. Sonia, Hawk, Ronan, and I are looking forward to seeing you all!

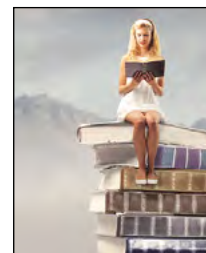


Brad Henry Pottery Studio and Gallery  
10024 Suffolk Place, Truckee, 96161  
530-386-1200 | [bradhenrypotttery.com](http://bradhenrypotttery.com)

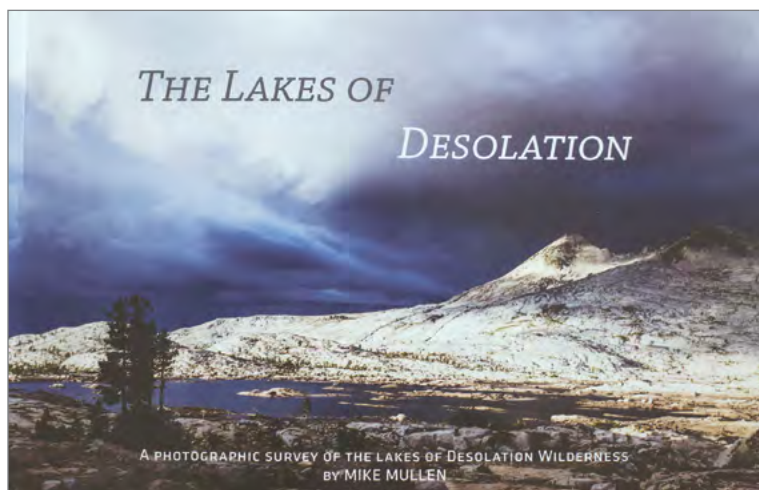


# HOT OFF THE PRESS

Three local personalities capture their passion in words, photos, and drawings in newly published works



BOOK IT!



By Mike Mullen; Self-published; 2016; 100 pages

## *The Lakes of Desolation: A photographic survey of the lakes of Desolation Wilderness*

Perhaps you have seen his Instagram @lakesofdesolation that boasts over 5,000 followers; but did you know that Mike Mullen, who grew up in Tahoe City and now lives in San Francisco, recently came out with a self-published book that takes readers, or, more accurately, viewers, on a photographic journey of the lakes of Desolation Wilderness? Well, now you know, and you should do yourself a favor and go to Alpenglw Sports in Tahoe City and pick up a copy — they have already had to be restocked since selling

out the first day they hit the shop's shelves. Of course, you can go to Mullen's website and order a copy, but keep in mind that when you purchase it at Alpenglw, you also get to take home a 9 x 13 inch print of a photo from the book of Velma Lakes with Dick's Peak in the background.

The concept for the book is simple, and we love that! The softcover and 5 x 8 inch design makes this \$25-publication worth every penny. The main text — apart from the names and photo dates printed along with each photo of the 87 lakes featured — comes in the preface where Mullen describes the method to his madness. He discusses how the initial concept for this photographic journey came about, a brief history of the wilderness area, and how hiking in Desolation makes him feel.

Mullen only photographed named lakes, and includes a note about their names, but hints at a future edition where he also documents the unnamed lakes of Desolation.

"It is my hope that this collection of photographs captures some of the essence of what this experience has been for me," Mullen writes in his book, "and can bring a part of that experience to those who view them."

~ Ally Gravina/Moonshine Ink

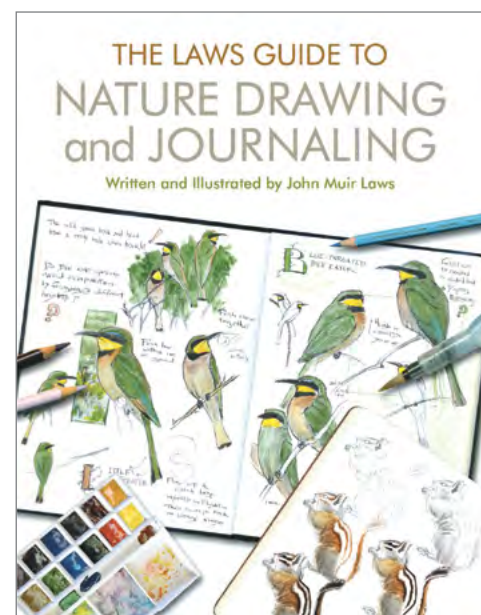
about nature, Laws' approach is very zen and requires you to stay in the moment — this may be hard if you are not used to drawing nature. To keep a nature journal is to observe and record, not just through drawing, but through writing as well. Using arrows, numbering, and labeling in your drawing is just the half of it. Thankfully, Laws gives prompts for patient, more detailed observation such as "I notice ..., I wonder ..., It reminds me of ..." He explains that using curiosity as a skill

## *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling*

John Muir Laws is a writer, artist, naturalist, and educator. His book *The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling* brings his passions to life and teaches with step by step processes.

In collaboration with Emilie Lygren he created a journaling technique that combines nature writing and drawing. "Nature journaling leads to knowledge derived from personal experience," Laws explains.

Inviting us to think differently



By John Muir Laws; Heydey; 2016; 312 pages

is essential for your nature journal, and he encourages us to spend time with children and to ask questions. Laws even provides directive on how

>>>



>>> to diagram a birdsong.

Projects that focus one's awareness are essential to nature journaling. It is about choosing your subject and making discoveries. "Be clear about your goals. Journal to observe the world more deeply, to remember what you see, and to enhance your curiosity about the world," Laws says. "Live richly in this moment. It will never come again. Give up the goal of the pretty picture, it will come on its own."

He also gives us the techniques to get that pretty picture by recommending materials, explaining line detail, value, color contrasts, and temperatures. With step-by-step processes for his techniques he teaches how to master the art of speed drawing since nature doesn't always sit still.

This book is an excellent guide to get you into your own nature journaling. Especially for where we live.

~ Andrea Bartunek/Moonshine Ink

up in an Italian/Irish family in Buffalo, N.Y., and consequently was exposed to a variety of international foods as a child. His obsession with serving people food came at a young age, as early as kindergarten, when he helped his teacher serve cookies to his class. After that, being able to yield positive feedback on something delicious became a life goal.

Dale has had an extensive culinary arts education. Studying in Japan during college allowed Dale to stay at a small temple called Temple Mineji where he learned the importance of each individual part of a meal, including dinnerware.

After Japan and college, Dale found himself in Boston under the tutelage of Hiroshi Hayashi at a restaurant called The Seventh Inn. It was his culinary boot camp. Hayashi eventually helped Dale with the opening of Wolfdale's, a restaurant that originally started as Dale's sister- and brother-in-law's restaurant on the West Shore of Lake Tahoe. He bought them

out years later and reopened in Tahoe City.

A lot of the recipes you find in his cookbook are inspired by Dale's days in Japan. His *Cuisine Unique* certainly lives up to its title, and you will find recipes inspired by many different cultures as the author takes a "no-culinary-rules approach to cooking in California," and you can see

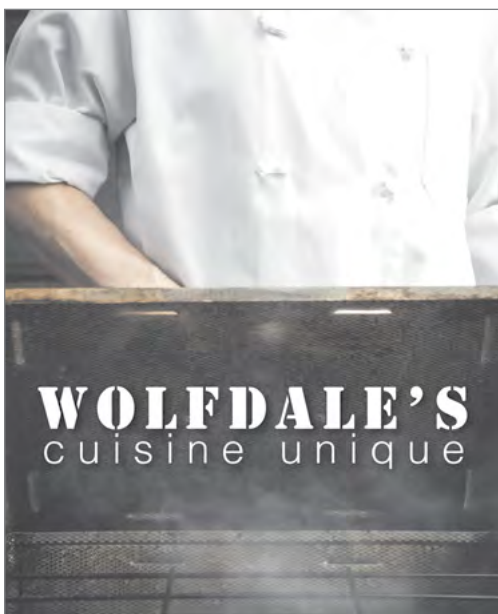
how truly diverse his dishes are in this cookbook. Each recipe has a small anecdote about its inspiration or background to further engage the reader.

"Food is the way to your dreams and goals, the way to self-fulfillment," Dale says. So, keep on eating and cooking with these wonderful recipes.


~ Andrea Bartunek/Moonshine Ink @

## Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique

*Wolfdale's Cuisine Unique* cookbook brings to life many creative dishes. With vivid photographs and a deep look into Wolfdale's beginning and inspirations, this cookbook is unlike any other. To fully understand *Cuisine Unique* you need to know Douglas Dale's backstory. He grew



By Douglas Dale; Wolfdale's Publishing; 2016; 220 pages



**Time to use your Gift Certificates!**

**Saturday, Nov. 26 | 3-5 p.m.**

**Small Business Saturday Book Signing**  
*Lake Tahoe's Railroads* by Stephen E. Drew  
Photo book by Arcadia Publishing

11429 Donner Pass Rd., Suite 2 (3 doors down from Wild Cherries)  
**(530) 582-0515** · [bookshelfstores.com](http://bookshelfstores.com)

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**MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT Jr**

STARRING QUINCY SCHRAM AND AIYANA FRAAS  
DIRECTED BY SOPHIE MOELLER

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TRUCKEE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER, CHURCH ST.  
TICKETS & INFO:  
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# HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST

## FOR ALL AGES

Every year we ask local kids to color a drawing and answer a question to be printed in our December Holiday Handbook. With the recent trend of adult coloring books we've decided to open up the contest to all ages this holiday season — we even included two awesome prizes!

### HERE IS HOW TO ENTER:

1. Color in the drawing — or draw a picture of your own — and answer the question below.
2. Write down your name and phone number. Snail mail or email back to Moonshine Ink before November 30.
3. Each drawing will enter you into a raffle to win a KidZone Museum membership (\$139), a gift card to Coffeebar (\$30), or a gift card to Trunk Show (\$20.)

Send entries to:

**MOONSHINE INK**  
P.O. BOX 4003  
TRUCKEE, CA 96161

or

[astevens@moonshineink.com](mailto:astevens@moonshineink.com)

Prizes sponsored by:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Question: If you had magical gift-giving powers, what present would you give, and to whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_