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Lake County
RECORD-BEE

Weekend
Edition

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USA Weekend



You hear a lot about “star power,” but how much influence do celebrities really have on teens? USA WEEKEND’s annual Teen Survey has some surprises.

See Inside

World

U.S. should close Gitmo facility

GENEVA — The United States should close its prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and avoid using secret detention facilities in its war on terror, a U.N. panel report released Friday said.

See Page A12

California

Police arrest fraud suspects

Two elderly women charged with mail fraud after collecting \$2.2 million from insurance policies they took out on a pair of homeless men who died in mysterious hit-and-run accidents have been arrested.

See Page A11

WeatherBee



Showers and some thunder; High on Cobb will be 65, low 44.

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Lake County
Record-Bee
2150 S. Main St.
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 263-5636
Our 133rd Year



Guilty plea in sex abuse case

Nursing home worker returns to court for sentencing next month

Terre Logsdon
Record-Bee staff

LAKEPORT — A man accused of sexually abusing an elderly female patient at a local convalescent home has pleaded guilty to felony sexual assault.

Joseph Allen Ross of Kelseyville, 23, is accused of sexually abusing a 95-year-old patient at Lakeport’s Evergreen Lakeport Healthcare Center while he was a staffer there.

Lakeport Police Chief Kevin Burke said last week after Ross’s arrest that, that due to the patient’s medical condition, she was not conscious of the acts.

On Friday, Ross pleaded guilty to two felony sexual abuse counts, which carry a maximum prison sentence of eight years and eight months.

“My family is thankful that he

admitted to his guilt,” said the victim’s son, whose name is withheld to protect the victim. He reported that Ross was caught in the act. “I hope the judge gives him the time due for his crime.”

Ross elected to waive his right to a speedy sentencing so Judge Richard Martin, who presided over the entry of the guilty pleas, will impose judgment.

“He threw himself on the mercy of the court,” said Deputy District Attorney John R. DeChaine, who is prosecuting the case.

DeChaine said that throughout the investigation, he had been in contact with Ross’s defense attorney, Bruce Laning.

“I emphasized to Mr. Laning the egregious nature of the charges and the overwhelming evidence against his client,” DeChaine said. “By pleading guilty now, he waives his right to a preliminary hearing and a jury trial,” which the court can take into consideration for sentencing.

See GUILTY PLEA, Page A3

TAKING IT ELECTRIC

Electric car enthusiasts start local auto club

Terre Logsdon
Record-Bee staff

LAKEPORT — A new club in Lake County, the Konocti Electric Auto Association (KEAA), wants to help county residents free themselves from the gas pump by educating them about the benefits of driving an electric car, as well as advocating for an infrastructure to support electric vehicles (EV).

“We live in a beautiful county,” said Dr. Randolph Sun, president of the KEAA, “and driving an electric car can help keep it that way.”

Sun, who owns a 2003 Toyota RAV4EV, decided that more people needed to learn about EVs to help stem the tide of global warming and pollution — not to mention the rising costs of petroleum.

Sun charges his SUV at home. He just plugs it in to a standard 220 outlet overnight and in the morning, he’s ready to go.

His home is equipped with solar panels which generate more electricity than he uses, so charging the batteries in his EV is free — but he estimates that if he did not have the panels, the charge would cost him about \$2, which will take him 120 miles.

“We hope to set up a charging infrastructure throughout Lake County,” Sun said, to join with the 1,500 charging stations already in place throughout California.

Since electric cars use no gasoline or diesel fuel at all, there’s no emissions



Terre Logsdon/Record-Bee

Dr. Randolph Sun and his 2003 Toyota EV4. To look at the vehicle, you wouldn’t immediately know it was electric, except for the “EV” on the side — and because it lacks a tailpipe. Sun is president of the Konocti Electric Automobile Association.

(or a tailpipe). Neither is there any oil, no transmission fluids because there is no transmission and, “since there is no engine — there’s no tune-up,” Sun said.

His Toyota EV4 gets an equivalent of 112 miles per gallon, the batteries should last 250,000 miles, the motor should last 1 million miles and it has a top speed of 80 miles per hour. So why don’t more people drive EVs?

“The current administration sued the state of California for their zero-emissions policy,” Sun said, “and they won.”

Because of a mandate by the California Air

Quality Management Board to require 2 percent of vehicles to have zero emissions by 2003, automakers were forced to bring electric cars to market — which they did on a very limited basis.

Toyota, General Motors, Ford and Honda all produced EVs which were very popular — people had to be put on a waiting list — but the auto

“industry spent millions lobbying in Sacramento, sued in federal court and successfully eviscerated the mandate,” according to DontCrush.com, a coalition of RAV4 EV drivers, former Honda EV+, GM EV1, and Ford Think City lessees, and clean air

and energy independence advocates.

“Now Toyota, GM, and Honda are confiscating and destroying thousands of electric cars [that were leased vehicles], despite offers of cash from satisfied customers,” the Dontcrush.com site states.

Many EV owners speculate that automakers don’t want the “good news” of EVs to spread, so they have destroyed EVs that were not privately owned.

Sun and 14 others are trying to spread the “good news” anyway — and they’re inviting anyone who is interested in learning about EVs to their next meeting on Friday, May 26. You will be able to see numerous types of EVs in the Memorial Day Parade in Lakeport on Saturday, May 27.

For more information on the KEAA, visit www.konoctieaa.org. On June 28, a film called “Who killed electric cars” will be released and distributed by Sony Pictures. Sun is lobbying for a local showing of the movie.

Contact Terre Logsdon at tlogsdon@record-bee.com.



Two Corbin Sparrows — three-wheeled motorcycles with a body — have top a top speed of 75 mph. Former vice president of Corbin Motors, Peter Senkowsky, is vice chair of KEAA.

HVL board backs off bar decision

Mulligan’s turned over to general manager

John Lindblom
Record-Bee staff

HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE — Acknowledging that it may have been “micromanaging,” the Hidden Valley Lake Association board of directors has removed itself from the issue of operating hours for Mulligan’s, the subdivision’s popular bar and restaurant, and turned it over to the HVL general manager.

The general manager, Rick Archbold, said that he has not yet made a decision on an associated issue that Hidden Valley residents have requested — the restoration of a pool table that was removed several weeks ago.

“The pool table is not coming back right now, because I’m going to re-evaluate it,” Archbold said. “It doesn’t mean that it’s not coming back; it just means I’m evaluating it.”

Mulligan’s hours of operation and the pool table became a divisive issue among a large group of residents among the estimated 6,000 at HVL and the board of directors when the board concluded that there was bad behavior and foul language at the club and that the pool table contributed to the problem.

In addition to removing the table, the board ruled that Mulligan’s bar had to be closed by 6 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday nights and by 10 Wednesday through Saturday.

The ruling also did away with karaoke at Mulligan’s on Friday night, the one night the establishment was open beyond 10 p.m.

But in a recent workshop with some residents present the board backed away from its decision.

Don Dornbush, one of three board members who did not support the restrictions, said at the workshop that the board was “micromanaging” in taking the actions it had taken.

“The board members felt that their attempt at controlling what they perceived to be a micro problem was not well received,” said Archbold. “They were also aware that some members of the community did not support their decision.”

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