

LTCC looking for fire academy participants

Students who want to apply for admission to the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy at Lake Tahoe Community College for fall must attend a mandatory orientation meeting on Aug. 5 at 6pm in the college board room.

Based on student demand, there may be a random lottery for available seats in the fire academy. Students will not be eligible for the lottery unless they attend this orientation meeting.

Interested students must also complete certain prerequisites in order to be eligible.

The program is three academic quarters. At completions cadets have training hours necessary to apply for firefighter 1 certification through the California Fire Marshal's Office. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for employment as a firefighter.

For more information, contact Leona Allen at 530.541.4660, ext. 554 or llallen@mail.ltcc.edu

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Quinn Deveaux & the Blue Beat Review will be at the Boathouse Theatre on the South Shore on July 29 at 7:30pm. For more info, go online.

• Barton Health is putting on a talk about robotic surgery on Aug. 6 from 6-7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College's board room. The talk is free. Bradley Anderson will discuss the potential patient benefits, including less pain, less blood loss, and shorter hospital stays.

• The 13-day Marine light attack helicopter training that was set to begin at Lake Tahoe Airport on July 27 has been canceled.

• The Carson City Mint Coin Show and Fair is Aug. 21-22 at the Nevada State Museum and the Carson Nugget. The fair includes activities for children, prize drawings, lectures, coin sales and free appraisals with admission. Admission is \$4 to both sites for one day. The event runs from 9:30am-4:30pm that Saturday and until 4pm on Sunday.

• The Placer County Sheriff's Office will dedicate the intersection of Elm Avenue and Highway 49 in Auburn to Deputy James Machado on July 23 at 10am. On July 13, 1978, Machado was shot and killed with his own service weapon during a struggle with an escaped mental patient.

Zephyr Cove man dies in

Stateline crash



The driver of this truck died hours after being extricated. Photo/Bill Kingman

A 93-year-old Zephyr Cove man died Monday in a single-vehicle accident.

The driver, whose name has not been released pending notification of next of kin, was going west on Kingsbury Grade near Katherine Drive on July 20 about 2:44pm when his pickup drifted off the road onto dirt and struck a tree.

He was transported to Renown Medical Center in Reno where he later died.

The driver was wearing his seatbelt and impairment does not appear to be a factor, according to the Nevada Highway Patrol.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

World breaks temperature record

By Stefan Nicola, BloombergBusiness

Earth warmed to a record in the first half of the year, putting new pressure on nations from the U.S. to China to try to curb climate change at a United Nations summit in Paris this December.

Global land and sea surface temperatures from January through June were 1.53 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average, the highest since recordings started in 1880, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in a report. The previous record was in 2010.

[Read the whole story](#)

NHP beefs up enforcement to catch speeders

Nevada Highway Patrol will be working around the clock to urge drivers and riders to slow their speed in an effort to eliminate the recent spike in statewide fatalities.

Troopers will be focused on enforcing speed limit laws through Aug. 10.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatalities Analysis Reporting System, Nevada has seen a 10 percent increase in fatalities to date compared to the same time last year. The same data shows that the

increase could have been avoided if motorists had adhered to posted speed limits.

Troopers urge drivers and riders to take extra care between 6pm and 6am when visibility is decreased and the majority of speed-related fatalities occur. Unlawful speeds increase the potential for loss of vehicle control, reduce the effectiveness of occupant protection equipment, decreases stopping distance in instances of danger, and increases the degree of crash severity leading to more debilitating injuries.

‘A Midsummer’s Night Dream’ coming to Tahoe

“A Midsummer’s Night Dream” will be at the Boathouse Theatre on the South Shore for one weekend.

The July 23-25 performances begin at 7:30pm.

“The course of true love never did run smooth,” wrote William Shakespeare in his most famous comedy.

The play will be presented with a Tahoe twist. The actors are all young adults.

Director Nannette Niven has a cast of 20 including Bjorn Hedqvist, Stephanie Hernandez, Zoe Greco, Tyler Martin, Steve Huerta, Zane Brady, Hunter Turney and Jered Stowell.

For tickets or more info, go online.

Fire-detection camera locations added in Nev.

Four remote mountain peaks in central and northeastern Nevada are home to a real-time camera fire-detection system.

A Bureau of Land Management Nevada grant awarded to the UNR to develop, install, and maintain a remote camera system, is in the initial phase of a five-year planned comprehensive network to cover vast areas of the state for early fire detection and response.

Soon after being installed, using the camera system's near-infrared detection capability, the camera on Midas Peak spotted a large lightning-strike fire 104 miles away near Jordan Valley, Ore. Shortly thereafter, the BLM and their firefighting partners responded to another fire north of Interstate 80 between Winnemucca and Elko. The Midas Peak camera provided valuable information for BLM's incident command center in responding to that fire as well.

The BLM has funded the mountaintop cameras to keep watch over sagebrush and forests in sensitive habitats from 10,000-foot-high Jacks Peak between Elko and Owyhee; 6,500-foot-elevation Midas Peak, about 40 miles north of Battle Mountain; 7,500-foot Callaghan Peak north of Austin near the Iowa Canyon Reservoir, and Fairview Peak south of Highway 50 and about 30 miles southeast of Fallon near Sand Mountain.

Lightning strikes from thunderstorm systems that recently drenched Northern Nevada ignited several fires in the Tahoe basin as well. The fires were identified with the camera system that rings Lake Tahoe.

“The recent thunderstorms and lightning strikes that have blanketed the area put our Tahoe system to the test, and we’ve found the equipment to work extremely well,” Graham Kent, director of the University’s Nevada Seismological Laboratory, said in a press release.

The fire-camera system is built on the backbone of the University’s Seismological Lab’s earthquake monitoring communications network, which features private high-speed internet connectivity capable of transmitting seismic, environmental and climate data, in addition to the live-streaming high-definition images.

Fire agencies can move the cameras with active pan-tilt-zoom functionality, the public can observe the real-time views as well as the time-lapse functions with a 15-minute, 30-minute and 12-hour time-lapse utility built into the webpage viewer.

The Seismological Lab uses Axis HD cameras, with 32x, pan-tilt-zoom capability, providing 360-degree panoramic views from high mountain towers. With the communications in place, these sites easily adapt to earthquake early warning detection systems that can provide public notification of expected potentially damaging ground shaking.

The expanded network also allows the university to expand the seismic detection system in Nevada, and improve earthquake monitoring in rural counties.

Live camera views, maps and information about the system are online.

SLT revamps vacation home rental ordinance

By Kathryn Reed

After hours of talk Tuesday by South Lake Tahoe staff and electeds, plus comments from 22 members of the public, the politicians went forward with a new vacation home rental ordinance.

Prior to that, during the temporary arts and crafts show discussion, Councilman Tom Davis said it was important to enforce the rules on the books before making changes. Members of the audience smiled and said “right on”. Enforcement – or the lack of it – has been a recurring theme in the VHR debate.

Davis, though, could not be part of the VHR discussion July 21 because he is part owner of Tahoe Keys rental agency. And therefore he could not be asked to apply the same line of thinking to the VHR issue.

The ordinance becomes the law 30 days after the second reading; so, most likely in early September.

The real estate community and vacation rental agencies believe the new rules will hurt the industry. They claim people are not buying houses in the city limits because it will become more cumbersome and expensive to obtain a VHR permit. Agency reps say the turnover in the VHR market is excessive and with the process more onerous it will send business across the state line or into the county, or even to the North Shore.

Agencies collect more than \$20 million a year in revenue in the city limits off vacation home rentals.

The trickle down effect on ancillary businesses like house cleaning and home repairs could also be affected, according to

opponents of the ordinance.

Jim Morris with Lake Tahoe Accommodations has already filed a lawsuit against the city regarding the current ordinance.

For those who support stricter regulations, they said without them it is possible lawsuits will be filed and the issue taken to the voters. They contend neighborhoods are being ruined and that these are businesses that have no right to be in residential areas.

Two-thirds of the vacation rentals in South Lake Tahoe are in residential neighborhoods. Prior to the city's contemplating the ordinance changes there were 1,600 VHR permits. That number is now closer to 2,000.

Many asked the city to enforce the current rules and wait until the city-initiated socio-economic study is done next year before making changes. The council said no to those requests, instead voting 4-0 to adopt the ordinance as presented.

The ordinance changes how occupancy is counted, pools must comply with county rules (spas are not included), people in a 300-foot radius will be notified of pending applications, properties must be inspected, and marketing material must be truthful.

The community development department will be in charge of permits. Today the police department handles them.

In addition to the permit fee that is on the books and ranges from \$150-\$800 based on maximum occupancy, there will be a \$544 fee. If someone wants to challenge a denied permit, it will cost \$3,400 for a hearing before the Planning Commission.

All current VHRs will also have to go through a one-time building inspection upon renewal of the permit. A checklist will be devised so people will know what will be looked at.

However, if inspectors see some other violation, then they legally must note it. The applicant will have the opportunity to correct the issue and continue the process.

In other action:

- A Verizon cell tower is going in at Bijou Golf Course. The city will make \$18,000 per year off of it. The fee could go up based on the consumer price index. There is a possibility of contract extensions for a total contract of 20 years.

- The city is looking at revising the sign permit. It will come back to the council in September. This would dramatically reduce the cost of the permit.

- SnowGlobe, the three-day outdoor music festival at Lake Tahoe Community College, will be allowed to have amplified music until 11pm in the Sierra tent on Dec. 29-30 and until 1am Jan. 1. This is to better disperse the crowd so everyone doesn't leave at once and have to stand in the cold for an inordinate period of time waiting for a bus.

Opinion: Calif. growth is just a fantasy

By Joe Mathews

California has an official state flower (poppy), state insect (the Dogface Butterfly), and state theater (the Pasadena Playhouse). But no official state sport.

Unless you count the great Californian pastime of overestimating our own population growth.



Joe Mathews

It should be enough that, at 38.7 million, we're the most populous state in the Union. But California's own collective identity is so tied up with our size that we routinely exaggerate it.

We overestimate our population in the present (politicians and pundits have long called this a "state of 40 million" even though we still haven't reached 39 million) and in the future (we've been saying for more than a generation that we'll be 50 million people by 2020). Gov. Jerry Brown invoked the 50 million figure last month in urging Californians "to find a more elegant way of relating to material things."

The trouble is that at our current pace we'll barely have 40 million people by 2020. For 20 years California has been experiencing the lowest rates of population growth in our history, with flatter immigration and a cratering birth rate.

In the last few years, the state government has been quietly – and rapidly – ratcheting down its long-exaggerated estimate of future growth. USC demographer Dowell Myers points out the following: in 2007, the state Department of Finance projected that California would reach 50 million by 2032. By 2012, that milestone had been delayed until 2049. In the most recent revised projections based on 2014 figures, we don't hit 50 million until 2051.

Why do we keep overstating our numbers? For two big reasons – one nice, one nasty.

The nicer one is our deep attachment to the 1980s, those salad days back when people came to our state in droves. It was in 1985 that the Population Reference Bureau first made the 50-million-by-2020 prediction, and the U.S. Census Bureau was still echoing that in the mid-1990s. Such projections made sense then – given California's 20th century growth from less than 2 million people in 1900 to 33 million in 2000.

But our demographers have found it hard to shake assumptions created by that historic growth. Even after the early '90s recession changed California's trajectory, the Census thought we'd make 49.3 million by 2025. It took the Great Recession to convince demographers that we weren't going back to the '80s.

So why do false assumptions about population persist? That's the nasty reason – population growth serves the left and the right.

On the left, those warning of the environmentalist apocalypse rely on the Malthusian notion that California is being doomed by endless growth, which in their view must be stopped. That's allowed them to justify opposing the essential replacement of aging infrastructure, and the adoption of new energy sources.

On the nativist right, the narrative of endless population growth serves the anti-immigrant cause. Lately the right has been blaming drought-related water shortages on an imagined population growth from a supposed surge in immigration that is not in fact taking place. While California has 10 million foreign immigrants, most of them have been here a lot longer than you (nearly half are citizens).

Our population overestimates are a close cousin of the assumption that, as USC's Manuel Pastor has described it, "that California is on its way to becoming 150 percent Latino." Indeed, with the slowdown of border crossings and a

plunging birth rate among Latinos, our ethnic mix is no longer changing so fast. Demographers who once predicted Latinos would soon become a state majority say it's possible that Latinos will never represent a majority in California.

The irony, unappreciated by the environmental left and anti-immigrant right, is that they have already won. California's population is not growing out of ecological or demographic control.

The trouble is that so few of us recognize this reality or have responded to it. The narrative that we're being overrun by newcomers crashing our nirvana is understandably seductive. But California, with fewer children and a stagnant population, needs to do more for its children, since they will have to be more productive than previous generations. And if we want to have the economic growth to support an aging population and generous social benefits, we need to think—for the first time—about how to attract more people here from other states and other countries, and to do a better job of retaining the people we do have.

Unfortunately, there is little serious effort or investment aimed at growing our actual population. Perhaps because we're too busy coping with the population boom taking place in our collective imagination.

Joe Mathews is California & innovation editor for Zócalo Public Square, for which he writes the Connecting California column.

More kids in poverty now than during recession

By Jennifer Calfas, USA Today

A higher percentage of children live in poverty now than did during the Great Recession, according to a new report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation released Tuesday.

About 22 percent of children in the U.S. lived below the poverty line in 2013, compared with 18 percent in 2008, the foundation's 2015 Kids Count Data Book reported. In 2013, the U.S. Department of Human and Health Service's official poverty line was \$23,624 for a family with two adults and two children.

"The fact that it's happening is disturbing on lots of levels," said Laura Speer, the associate director for policy reform and advocacy at the Casey Foundation, a non-profit based in Baltimore. "Those kids often don't have the access to the things they need to thrive." The foundation says its mission is to help low-income children in the U.S. by providing grants and advocating for policies that promote economic opportunity.

Read the whole story