

Then and now: CTC takes over sensitive parcels



The old telephone booth went away long before the building that once sold doughnuts. Photo/Provided

In May 2014, the California Tahoe Conservancy purchased three commercial lots in South Lake Tahoe, namely the South Y Lodge on Emerald Bay Road, the lakefront two-story Alta Mira building adjacent to Lakeview Commons, and the property on Highway 50 near 4th Street occupied by the Smoke Shop and Tahoe Psychic.

As reported in *Lake Tahoe News*, "... The goal for all three (lots) is to tear down the existing structures and improve the land, while also giving the public access."



A psychic and smoke shop were the last two businesses at this site.
Photo/LTN file

The single-story building and the A-frame behind it on Highway 50 near 4th Street stood on less than one-half acre, but it is a stream environment zone which the CTC intends to protect.

These two buildings have housed many different kinds of businesses over the years, such as the earlier doughnut shop pictured.

The A-frame in back housed a used merchandise and consignment business and finally become the Smoke Shop, and Tahoe Psychic lastly had the front building. As *LTN* observed, "...the psychic owners in the front building must have been clairvoyant when they signed a three-year lease with the current owner the day before the Conservancy began negotiations."

– *Bill Kingman*



The businesses had to move.
Photo/Bill Kingman



The Conservancy had the buildings razed in June 2015. Photo/Bill Kingman

Beach-goers sip their way around booze ban



Frank Machler, USFS law enforcement officer. tells a group their beer is not allowed at the beach. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

ZEPHYR COVE – It was hard to know an alcohol ban was in place at Zephyr Cove beach on July 4.

“Why can’t I drink today and yesterday I could?” Neil Fenton asked. The Irishman, one of about a group of 25 on the South Shore beach, practically begged U.S. Forest Service employees to be able to keep his beer.

No such luck.



A beer can on the Fourth of July floats in Lake Tahoe.

The Forest Service, which owns this beach along with many others in the basin, for several years has been saying no to alcohol on July 4 to help prevent things from getting out of hand.

With about 10,000 people just at this beach – as well as the neighboring Dreyfus Estate, the Forest Service is on a quest to maintain control. One way is curbing alcohol consumption.

People were lining up at 6:30am Saturday to get onto Zephyr Cove beach. With the thunderstorm rolling through midmorning, it scattered some people and kept the temperatures cooler than usual. This may have played a role in keeping the alcohol-induced troubles to a minimum.



Vehicles and pedestrians fill the lanes of Highway 50.

While signs were posted – and were up the day before the Fourth – and the media had gotten the word out about the booze ban, some people said they weren't aware of the rules and others deliberately tried to get around them.

Jonathan Cook-Fisher, a forest protection officer with the USFS, had warned a multigenerational group at 11:30am about the alcohol ban. Frank Machler, a law enforcement officer with the USFS, saw the same people more than three hours later with beer cans next to them that anyone could see. He waited to see the cooler being hauled away. The older man in the group – at least in his 60s – glared at Cook-Fisher and his partner for the day, Gerard Dean, when he saw them later.



USFS law enforcement officers patrol the beer garden at Zephyr Cove.

Cook-Fisher and Dean run into the Irishmen who've stopped in the forest to drink some more. Cans are scattered about. They are told to move on, but to first take their trash. They mumble and mosey on.

Beer cans on the beach prove the ban is being ignored. Some are empties on the beach, some float in the water. An abundance of trash litters the sand. No obvious trash cans are in sight.

Others try not to be so blatant with their alcohol consumption. On the party side a guy is drinking a cola colored beverage from a bottle that says it is water. An officer confiscates it, pours it out. It wasn't just soda.



Frank Machler, center, talks with Neil Fenton, right, about getting rid of his booze, as USFS employees Gerard Dean and Jonathan Cook-Fisher standby.

Instead of traditional water bottles, people are getting more deceptive with their contraband. Shampoo and sunscreen bottles are being used to transport alcohol. The problem is the container isn't always washed out well so the imbiber ends up vomiting.

Machler said he likes to get people to pour the alcohol out or take it back to the vehicle. Citations are not immediate. If things get out of hand, the resort can tell people to leave or sheriff's deputies can take people to jail.

Machler also has no tolerance for marijuana use. It's illegal on federal property no matter what the state laws say – even medical marijuana. A guy admits to using, but said it was hours before and not on federal land.



A man receives a citation for disorderly conduct and interfering with a law enforcement officer.

Cook-Fisher said that's one of the things those patrolling the beaches have to do – make quick decisions in the moment. They weigh the seriousness of the infraction against possibly taking resources from where they might better be served. Is education more beneficial than a citation? Ruining someone's fun at Tahoe is not their goal; instead it's about making them and the others at the beach safe.

Another way to help maintain calm has been to increase the number of people who are working the Fourth holiday. On a normal summer weekend the Forest Service has 10 to 15 people in the field. (This doesn't count fire personnel.) This weekend more than 40 additional USFS employees are in the basin working.

Cook-Fisher said the biggest change in the last five years is the collaboration between agencies.

"There's a common understanding that resources are limited and we need to share," Cook-Fisher told *Lake Tahoe News*.

At Zephyr Cove, in addition to Forest Service employees, Douglas County sheriff's deputies were out, the resort hired Marines to work security, and Tahoe Douglas fire regulates how many people can be in the beer garden. Tahoe Douglas

paramedics administer the serious medical aid. Before they can arrive the USFS Klamath firefighters who are in the region for added fire suppression relief render basic aid. One woman was about to get an ambulance ride in her bikini. She cut her elbow and thigh climbing a fence. Stitches were in her future.



Piles of garbage at Zephyr Cove beach on July 4.

Cook-Fisher ends up giving medical attention to a group of women, one of whom is clearly intoxicated. Her fingernail is nearly torn off and she is whimpering in pain.

“Our purpose today is not about writing citations. It’s public safety and protecting natural resources,” Cook-Fisher said.

At this South Shore beach a temporary fence is erected on the Fourth with the goal of keeping families on one side, the more raucous revelers on the other.

The only alcohol allowed is in the beer garden that Zephyr Cove Resort runs. It’s hopping in there, with music playing and people dancing. Several law enforcement officers monitor who comes and goes.

About 4pm the beer garden closes. The beach closes about an hour later for a short time. Many people were headed for a place where they could watch the fireworks, like Nevada Beach.

For authorities, it was just another day at the beach – Lake Tahoe style.

Editorial: E-cigarette regulation is the real issue

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the June 21, 2015, Sacramento Bee.*

There's no pressing health reason not to raise the smoking age to 21 in California. Smoking kills, and nine out of 10 tobacco users say they picked up the habit as teens.

But the proposal, which passed the Senate early this month and has moved to the Assembly, is hardly where the action is when it comes to kids and tobacco. Just as Uber has displaced taxi cabs and AirBnB has stolen the thunder from hotels, so has smoking been disrupted.

E-cigarette use among adolescents tripled between 2013 and 2014, according to the most recent National Youth Tobacco Survey. Meanwhile, regular cigarette use among high school students has declined.

Read the whole story

Creative excuses for being late to work

By Teresa F. Lindeman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

If being late to work were not a problem, no one would need to come up with an excuse.

But people do – trying to appease the boss with a reason for their tardiness – and that can lead to strange clues on what's happening outside of the workplace.

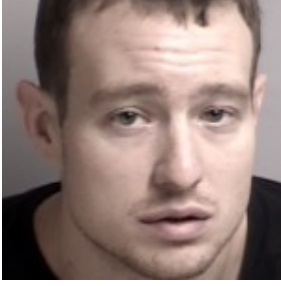
“I had to wait for the judge to set my bail.” “There was a stranger sleeping in my car.” “I was drunk and forgot which Waffle House I parked my car next to.”

CareerBuilder, a Chicago employment services firm, shared some of the findings from an online Harris poll of 2,100 human resource managers and 3,000 workers that found 23 percent of employees admitting to being late at least once a month. Fourteen percent said they were late at least once a week.

Read the whole story

S. Tahoe man accused of felony DUI

A South Lake Tahoe man was arrested Friday on felony charges of driving while under the influence of alcohol causing injury.



Benjamin
Bassett

Benjamin Bassett, 27, had a blood alcohol level of 0.11 percent, according to police officers.

He was going west on Pioneer Trail near Woodbine Road on July 3 about 2am when he reported lost control of the vehicle, causing it to rollover and land on the roof of the Chevrolet Trailblazer. The speed limit is 35 mph. South Lake Tahoe officers said Bassett was going more than 50 pmn.

A passenger was transported to Barton Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Product aims to prevent drowning

By Bob Shallit, Sacramento Bee

A Gridley company is off to a great start in its plans to raise capital for an emergency flotation device targeted at surfers, boaters and other water sports participants.

Kingii Corp. initially planned to raise \$65,000 to start production. But money raised from investors, retailers and

consumers via a crowdfunding campaign launched Monday on Indiegogo has pushed funding over \$427,000 as of Friday afternoon.

The company's lightweight product – called Kingii and named after an Australian lizard that raises a frill over its neck when alarmed – is worn around the wrist and quickly expands when a user triggers an attached carbon dioxide cartridge. It's aimed at people who regard life vests as too bulky.

"If you're swimming and you get tired or get a cramp when you're out too far, it's nice to have something to get you through" to safety, said Crystal Bullard, the company's sales and marketing director.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Construction on the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail will begin July 6. This segment is about a one-half mile between Herbert Avenue and Glenwood Way in South Lake Tahoe. It should be done by August.

• The Nevada Department of Public Safety-Division of Parole and Probation is celebrating its 70th anniversary.

• ☐The 14th annual Art, Wine and Music Festival returns to the Village at Squaw July 11-12 ☐starting at 11am. The festival is free to the public and wine tastings are \$25. Proceeds from the festival will benefit the local nonprofit Disabled Sports USA Far West.

- Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care night at the Reno Aces baseball game is July 22. Game starts at 7:05pm against the Albuquerque Isotopes. If at least 200 of the \$12 right field bleacher tickets are sold, LTWC will receive a donation of 50 percent of those sales from the Reno Aces.

- Here is the Sierra roadwork schedule from Caltrans for next week.

Construction worker struck on Highway 89

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

HOMWOOD – The California Highway Patrol on Tuesday arrested a Mill Valley man on suspicion of fleeing the scene after striking a road-construction worker the day before, causing serious injuries.

The incident occurred on Highway 89 in a busy construction zone in Homewood, on Lake Tahoe's west shore, about 1:35pm Monday.

Following an investigation, CHP officers arrested Erich J. Griesemer, 60, of Mill Valley, in Tahoma about 4:20pm Tuesday.

Read the whole story

3 DUI arrests; beefed up patrols continue

Three people were arrested on driving under the influence charges in El Dorado County in the 24-hour period of July 3.

This was the work of local routine traffic enforcement and special Avoid the 6 DUI deployments. In 2014, five people were arrested in the same 24-hour period.

DUI arrest data collection will continue through midnight July 5. Law enforcement officials are continuing DUI efforts throughout the county and region. Additionally, CHP throughout the state have all available officers patrolling freeways and county roads throughout the weekend.

For July 4, all agencies will be staffing all available officer and extra DUI saturation patrols will be deployed in the Placerville, South Lake Tahoe and the unincorporated areas in the county.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Reflections on the atomic blast test in Nevada

By Joni Tevis, High Country News

Nevada Test Site, 1953

Put yourself in his shoes: cold, Army-issue, treads packed with sand. Rise before dawn, climb into the truck and bump down the road to Doom Town. As the convoy tops the last ridge,

narrow your eyes at the rising sun's brilliant seam. Showtime. Up the ladder you go, sun already warm on your neck, roof shingles softening underfoot, nail heads gleaming silver.

The day wears on in pounding and shouts as you move down the line, lapping layers tight enough to turn any water, although this roof will never see rain. Down below, masons raise the chimney a row at a time, scraping excess mortar free. The painters spray the siding, not bothering to tape the windows; time is of the essence. Saltbrush shivers on the ridge and smashed jackrabbits stain the road as you ride back to Mercury Camp, work done, clothes heavy with sweat and tar, paint and dirt, tacky with sap from lumber that was a tree six months ago.

Operation Doorstep-Shot Annie, 1953

Full dark over a silent house. See how easy it is to make a family, twins sprawled on the floor, Baby in his high chair, Mother bending near, a spoonful of pears in her shapely hand. J.C. Penney provided the mannequins and wardrobe: rompers for the twins, footed sleeper for Baby, and Mother's sensible skirt, button-front blouse, clip earrings. (Daddy's at work, offstage.)

The bomb will detonate in a minute's time.

Read the whole story