

Cave Rock work to cause traffic delays

Westbound lanes of Highway 50 at Cave Rock will be closed May 27 starting at 9am.

Nevada Department of Transportation officials plan to evaluate and secure the Cave Rock rock face and slope following a rock fall in February.

Both directions of traffic will alternate through the eastbound tunnel, with up to 30-minute delays.

Next week's work will remove any additional rock debris above the tunnel. Experts will also investigate current rock face condition and develop interim strategies to further heighten slope stability and safety.

Annual dump day set for June 6

Clean Tahoe's Community Cleanup Day is June 6 from 8am-4pm.

It's the one day of the year South Shore residents can bring unwanted items to South Tahoe Refuse (2140 Ruth Ave., South Lake Tahoe) at huge discounts.

Cleanup Day pricing:

- \$5 per vehicle load California residents
- Truck and trailer California residents: \$10

- Nevada residents: \$10/load
 - Oversize loads and U-hauls: priced by size
 - Free document shredding (limit three boxes per resident)
 - Refrigerators: \$15 (normally \$40)
 - Computer monitors and TVs: free.
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Truckee ready for fire season with new truck

Truckee Fire Department's ARFF fire engine went into service a few weeks ago and will be based at station 96 at the airport.

The Timberwolf was built by Rosenbauer on a 2014 International four-wheel drive chassis. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District purchased the engine and the fire district paid for outfitting it.

Although the engine has some specific aircraft capabilities and tools, like a large foam tank, it is a multipurpose engine that is equipped to fight structure, aircraft and wildland fires. This engine will be a first out engine responding to fire calls throughout the Truckee area.

The engine can carry four firefighters, 750 gallons of water and 50 gallons of foam concentrate.

Lake Tahoe trying to inflate cycling economy

By Kathryn Reed

Riding a bike isn't just about getting from Point A to Point B. For some it's more than getting exercise and seeing pretty scenery. Cycling is a big business.

The Outdoor Industry Association's 2012 report found that cyclists spend \$81 billion annually. The bulk of that figure – \$70 billion-plus is on trips, the rest is on gear.

Cyclists tend to spend an average of \$75 a day when they travel compared to other tourists who shell out \$60, they span the age spectrum, they usually stay at least three nights, and it could be individuals, friends or families traveling together.



Lake Tahoe would like to better capitalize on the growing number of cyclists. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn

E. Wright

A panel of four spoke May 20 at Lake Tahoe Community College about the South Shore cycling scene – its evolution and what more needs to be done.

Gary Bell, who owns Sierra Ski and Cycle Works and founded TAMBA, said when he moved to South Lake Tahoe in the late 1970s mountain biking didn't exist here. Now people from outside the area come to his shop asking about specific trails they've heard about. The Flume Trail and Mr. Toad's are the most popular.

He notices it's not just twentysomething year olds either. All ages – including families – are on their bikes.

The May issue of *Bike* magazine did a 10-page spread on Tahoe, which Bell is quoted in.

Day trips are huge for cyclists – no matter their tire width. This is something that was pointed out that Tahoe should capitalize on.



"As a premier biking destination we don't have good signage." – Carol Chaplin, LTVA executive director

Photo Copyright 2015

Carolyn E. Wrightt

The fact that one-quarter of the people who volunteer at TAMBA trail days proves those outside the area care enough about Tahoe mountain biking to give back.

Carol Chaplin, who heads the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, has the job of promoting the region for all levels of cyclists – including the pros. A large amount of credit for bringing the women's Amgen Tour of California to Tahoe can be given to Chaplin.

"We were in it for the PR part of it," Chaplin said. She won't reveal a dollar amount regarding how the town benefitted. She said it cost more than \$200,000 to be the host venue for two days.

Curtis Fong, who organizes the June and September rides around the lake, said combined his events have brought in \$150 million to the community. This is from participants and their friends staying and eating in town as well as spending money on other things.

But it's also up to businesses to take the initiative when events like this occur. When the men's Tour of California almost happened here in 2011 Sprouts had a welcoming sign and the restaurant was hopping with the riders.

In terms of an overall welcome for cyclists, Jason Collin – Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce board member – said promoting an environmentally friendly and healthy lifestyle does this.

Chaplin said in partnership with the chamber businesses have been told it would be advantageous to have bike racks, a place for cyclists to hose or wipe down their bikes – especially for mountain bikes, and laundry capabilities.

In the end, the speakers agreed there is room for improvement

if Lake Tahoe is going to be among the elite destinations for all cyclists.

“As a premier biking destination we don’t have good signage,” Chaplin said.

This, though, is a difficult endeavor on any of the state highways because Caltrans and NDOT make the rules. There are groups like the bike committee that is part of Measure S/R and the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition that are working on wayfinding on paths and side streets.

It was also acknowledged that a survey should be conducted to gather more input about who is cycling here. It was pointed out that various agencies from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association to the U.S. Forest Service to Tahoe Regional Planning Agency do various surveys but the data has not been coalesced nor is it readily available to the public.

Chaplin said a detailed user survey is something the LTVA could do, though it costs money. The LTVA marketing committee will be discussing the 2015-16 budget at its May 26 meeting. Chaplin said important information to find out is the gaps the area has when it comes to cycling so those can be addressed.

Gaming on legislative radar, even if not the focus

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada’s casino industry hasn’t been the main focus this year in the Legislature, but it is an important part of the action in Carson City.

Casino executives have been a key voice in this session's main debate: whether and how to boost education funding, specifically through Gov. Brian Sandoval's proposed expansion of the business license fee, which the Nevada Resort Association supports.

Association President Virginia Valentine said the gaming industry would pay about 58 percent of all business taxes collected by the state if Sandoval's plan is approved, but association members have a vested interest in improving education and think Sandoval's vision is the best way to get there.

Read the whole story

Time to get in gear for Tahoe Bike Challenge

Participants in the Tahoe Bike Challenge, which runs from June 1-14, will track their miles in a friendly competition for prizes and bragging rights.

The kickoff celebration is May 30 at Moe's Original BBQ in Tahoe City, featuring group rides, live music, a bike tire changing contest, and bicycle decorating competition.

Information on the Tahoe Bike Challenge may be found online, including a calendar of events and details on how to register and log miles ridden during the challenge.

Rhone varietals to highlight wine event

Five El Dorado County wineries are bringing out their best during Rocks & Rhones on Memorial Day weekend. The wine and food event celebrates Rhone varietals grown in the rocky soils of El Dorado's Pleasant Valley.

There will food pairings, winemaker demonstrations and vineyard walks.

The wineries are located within a four-mile radius in Pleasant Valley: Auriga, Holly's Hill, Miraflores, Narrow Gate and Sierra Vista.

Tickets are \$35 advance, \$40 at the door, and \$20 for designated drivers. Price includes a commemorative glass. Tickets are available online.

Nevada No. 2 in U.S. for foreclosure activity in April

By Jennifer Robison, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada continued to chip away at its home foreclosures in April.



Nevada has
been a leader
in
foreclosures
for years.
Photo/Brendel

A Wednesday report from California research firm RealtyTrac found that foreclosure activity across the state was up 39 percent year over year in the month, extending to one in every 555 homes. That was good enough for No. 2 in the nation for default-related activity.

Florida ranked No. 1, with one in every 425 homes in some stage of foreclosure. Maryland, New Jersey and Tennessee rounded out the top five.

[Read the whole story](#)

Smartphone apps to map your meanderings

By Stephanie Rosenbloom, New York Times

Who needs yet another smartphone app, let alone one that plots and records your wanderings?

You do – if you want to explore a city without keeping track

of every turn, yet later call up the coordinates of that quaint patisserie you passed on that little cobblestone street whose name you can't recall.

Such apps let travelers live in the moment. You don't have to stop and jot down beguiling lanes, restaurants and boutiques – the app leaves digital bread crumbs.

Also, the routes that these apps ultimately plot are more than maps; they're shareable mementos, be it of your hike through Yosemite or stroll through Barcelona.

Read the whole story

Entertainment venue being created in SLT



Magicians like Danny Cole will have a permanent venue to perform in starting this fall in South

By Kathryn Reed

A long undeveloped commercial space is about to become South Lake Tahoe's first indoor entertainment venue.

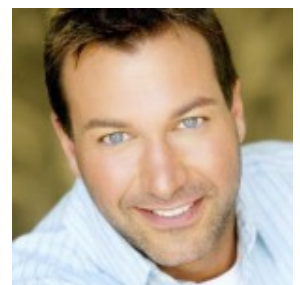
The third floor of the movie theater at Heavenly Village was once going to be a residential unit. By November it is slated to be a 110-seat events center with a separate high-end bar-lounge area.

Gary Casteel, whose Trans Sierra Investments owns the site, and Paul Reder of PR Entertainment, plan to spend more than \$1 million converting the vacant area into a state-of-the-art live entertainment destination. This will be in the dome area of the movie theater building.

This week the City Council agreed to sell 5,100-square-feet of commercial floor area to Trans Sierra for \$100,000. Next up is the permitting process. The goal is for it to be open in the fall.

"We need more entertainment in the village. This rounds out what we do," Casteel told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The hub of the South Shore, which opened more than a decade ago, is completely full. Casteel credits the vibrancy of the village to having the right mix of tenants.



**"My thought is
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– *Paul Reder,*
president PR
Entertainment

Casteel and Reder’s history dates to their days at Caesars Tahoe. Both believe this partnership will be successful, profitable and beneficial for the city as well as the overall region. They’ve been working on the project for about 18 months.

Reder has produced more than 3,000 shows on the South Shore in the last 26 years. One of the most successful genres has been magic. He started producing those in 2003. Seven years later he and co-producer Tony Clark won the Merlin Award for Producer of the Year. In the world of magic this is like winning an Academy Award.

When the Horizon closed last year no other casino wanted that type of entertainment even though night after night the magic shows would sell out.

“The magic show concept resonated so well with the community because there was nothing else to do with the family. There are only so many times you can see a movie,” Reder told *Lake Tahoe News*. He said Illusion Fusion sold more than 30,000 tickets a year and that on TripAdvisor it was the No. 1 attraction in Lake Tahoe.

The Heavenly Village venue will host two shows a night, six nights a week. The early show will be family oriented, while the later show will be for those 21 and older. Both will be magic-based. Clark will be the producer and magical

consultant.

Reder said his experience is that there is a demand for family entertainment. There is also a demand for year-round entertainment.

“My thought is you could get over the shoulder season if you do events and give people a reason to come up here,” Reder said.

He also anticipates having speakers give talks at the theater, renting the space to community groups, using it for meeting space during the day, and potentially having music acts who want to perform in an intimate setting.

Reder is working now on getting the shows lined up.

The lounge area will include two fireplaces and overstuffed couches with a living room feel. Areas can be sectioned off for privacy. Small plate, tapa-style food offerings will be available. It will be a place to hang even when not seeing a show.

A separate entrance will be created on the third level of the parking garage so people will be able to walk into the venue from there. Not everyone will be driving since there are about 5,000 hotel rooms within walking distance. The main entrance will be near the movie theater.

The goal is to use locals as much as possible in the next few months – including the architect, designer and construction team.

The only thing left to be known is what the name of the venue will be. Trademark issues are being worked out so that is still forthcoming.