

TOCCATA to put on 'Passion according to St. Matthew'

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus continues its Winter MusicFest with the 10th annual presentation of J. S. Bach's masterpiece "The Passion according to St. Matthew."

The first concert of the three concert series will take place March 29 at 4pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Reno, located at 501 California Ave.

The program will feature selections from "Part two of the Passion", and will be performed in English. Soloists include Michael Dewayne as the Evangelist, Stuart Duke as Jesus, John Rabben as Pontius Pilate, and Chris Nelson as Peter. Maria Arrigotti, Anna Helwing and Joy Strotz are the soprano soloists, with JulieAnn Miller, mezzo soprano soloist. Scott Deupree performs as the High Priest, with Susan Horst, MaryAnn Helman, Linda Mitchell as the false witnesses. David Brock will play harpsichord continuo, along with Nicholas Haines, cello. Maestro James Rawie will conduct all performances.

The St. Matthew Passion will be repeated April 1 at 7pm at St Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe, 1041 Lyons Ave. The final concert will be April 3 at 7pm at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Incline Village, 341 Village Blvd.

Tickets are available at the door or online. General admission to all concerts is \$25 adults, \$20 seniors, \$5 students aged 19 to 23 with valid ID. Preferred seating is \$35 and \$15 for youth/students. Youth under 19 years of age are admitted free, in non-reserved seating, to most regular season concerts in 2015.

Calif. lawmakers seek national monument designations

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON — California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country.

The designation typically takes lands already owned by the government and walls them off from new mining, roads and power lines. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding are commonly allowed, though each national monument has its own dos and don'ts.

Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pursuing two paths. The first is through legislation. Many Republicans are wary, though. So, supporters are also placing greater emphasis on Plan B: Executive action from President Barack Obama. The narrowing window for that option is adding urgency to their efforts.

Presidents have the authority to designate new national monuments through the Antiquities Act, and Obama has approved 16 so far, including three more last week. California groups took notice.

"We think that's exciting, and we merit the same consideration in the near term," said Bob Schneider, senior policy director

for Tuleyome, a conservation group that seeks to preserve 360,000 acres in northern California as a national monument.

The group has worked with Democratic Rep. Mike Thompson, who has filed bills in three consecutive congressional sessions calling for what would be named the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In December, he brought in Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a tour and to hear from local residents.

"The majority party is not willing to participate in the debate," Thompson said. "If the president is willing, I'm all for him protecting the land through an executive order."

Many of the communities in Thompson's district support his efforts. One local chamber of commerce projected that a national monument designation would generate an additional \$50 million in economic activity in the subsequent five years through increased visitors. But another local chamber has fretted that a national monument designation could impose additional requirements on already overburdened agencies with no guarantee of additional resources.

Any national monuments legislation moving through the House would likely have to go first through a subcommittee chaired by Republican Rep. Tom McClintock of California. He's clearly skeptical.

"The Republicans want to preserve and enhance the public's right to enjoy the public's land. Democrats are seeking to further restrict public access," McClintock said. "That's the fundamental, core issue."

Like Thompson, Sen. Dianne Feinstein also is getting restless. She first proposed legislation in 2009 calling for two new national monuments in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and reintroduced a version of the bill in early February. Feinstein favors legislative action, but she said in an emailed statement that executive action may be necessary if

the bill stalls.

Feinstein, a Democrat, said she would prefer the legislative route because an executive order would simply create two new national monuments while her legislation includes more land for national parks, wilderness and off-highway recreation. Numerous compromises crafted over the years would be lost.

The Wildlands Conservancy helped the federal government acquire large segments of both proposed monuments in Feinstein's bill through donations of money and land. The group was delighted when Jewell visited the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument last year and a vehicle in her security detail had to stop to let a bighorn sheep cross the road.

"You can't beat that," said David Myers, the organization's executive director.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects. But she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about "the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."

Kershaw also noted that the Obama administration has testified in favor of Feinstein's legislation back in 2010 and Thompson's legislation in 2013.

McClintock says an executive order creating any monuments in California would be "a complete overreach" by the president and an abuse of the Antiquities Act, which was designed to protect small archaeological sites from looting.

The newest and smallest of the proposed national monuments is in Silicon Valley's backyard, near Santa Cruz. The 5,800 acres were acquired by various foundations and donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management just last year.

At a public rally two weeks ago, nearly 1,500 people showed up, stunning organizers who called the event the launch of their campaign, not the conclusion.

Bruce Babbitt, the former Interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, was the guest speaker.

"Half the town was there," Babbitt said. "It seemed to me an excellent statement to President Obama of community support. Congress has a chance to act. If it doesn't, all the more reason for President Obama to step in."

EDC promoting vacation rental program

El Dorado County is putting on a meeting March 4 about the Good Neighbor Program for vacation home rentals.

It starts at 11am in the conference room at the South Lake Tahoe Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

The purpose of the meeting is to explain how the Good Neighbor Program works and how owners or their agents are the responsible party to encourage tenants to be courteous and thoughtful in their actions. Another purpose of the program is to explain the ordinance in plain English to visitors.

The brochure is also available online.

Wellness challenge tests SLT residents' fitness

The Monthly Wellness Challenge sponsored by South Lake Tahoe is designed to get the community in shape.

Events will be at the Recreation and Swim Complex, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd.

Each month a different activity will be offered for community members to experience such as weight lifting, lap swimming, cardio machines, playing basketball, ping pong, climbing the traversing wall, and more. Included each month will be information on general fitness tips to increase product knowledge and safety.

The March Wellness Challenge is called Sweat Sessions and focuses on weight room users. After paying the daily use fee, participants will track the amount of time spent in the Recreation Center weight room from March 1-31. Sessions are tracked in 30-minute intervals. At the end of the month the person with the most intervals will be awarded a certificate and gift package.

Participants may sign up for the program with front desk personnel at the recreation complex at which time they are given a personal Wellness Challenge Tracking Calendar. Staff will post participant's progress on a display in the weight room to inspire challenge participants. Each time the participant performs the designated activity they log their progress.

For more info, call 530.542.6056.

Going bald to raise money for cancer research



Van Oleson, right, donates the ice arena for this event; plus, he and his son get their heads shaved to help the cause. Photo/Denise Haerr

South Shore residents filled the South Lake Tahoe ice rink Feb. 27, but it had nothing to do with skating of any kind.

It was all for the St. Baldrick's Foundation's annual fundraiser. People show their support by volunteering to have their heads shaved and then seek donations to support childhood cancer research.

People of all ages participated, as well as folks with hair of various lengths.

On Friday night, 172 people had their heads shaved, with 80 of

them being Heavenly Mountain Resort employees.

– Reporting by Denise Haerr

Then and now: Architectural improvements



Design standards have not always been important in South Lake Tahoe. Photos/Bill Kingman

The two-story grey building on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe collapsed in 2005 when it was hit by a truck. The red “Trader” building was razed soon after.



A more mountain motif replaced the Tahoe-funky look.

At the same parcel today is more modern looking structure that has a bit of a mountain theme. It fits in with the natural environment better compared to what was there.

– *Bill Kingman*

Ice climbing in Tahoe takes root

By Dave Zook, Moonshine Ink

Scaling a glistening slab of vertical blue ice with only a few centimeters of steel crampon points and ice tools pierced into the frozen water, the going is slow, demanding, and dangerous. Nevertheless, a small legion of Tahoe ice climbers is dedicated to finding the small window when ice climbing takes hold in Lake Tahoe.

“Ice climbing can be extremely challenging, frustrating, not to mention dangerous, especially when beginning, and Tahoe is not a world class destination by any means,” said Logan Talbott, an Alpine Skills International (ASI) guide and ice climber with 15 years of experience. “But it’s a unique medium and people get hooked by the experience of climbing up something like the bizarre formations on a frozen waterfall.”

Ice climbing may be overshadowed in Tahoe by skiing and snowboarding, but climbers relish in finding yet another way to celebrate Tahoe’s dynamic landscape. Plus ice climbing typically improves when the skiing deteriorates and vice versa, so the potential for a conflict of sporting interests is minimized.

"I'll ice climb more when the skiing's not good," said Brennan Lagasse, a professor at Sierra Nevada College, ice climber, and skier. "These recent seasons where we've had a slow start I've certainly climbed a lot more, and it helps get your focus on something super fun rather than dwelling on when it's going to snow."

Read the whole story

Opinion: Violent crime decreasing in SLT

By Brian Uhler

Police officials recently completed the official Uniform Crime Report for 2014. Overall, violent and property crimes are down.



Brian Uhler

Here are some details comparing 2013 and 2014 in the South Lake Tahoe Police Department:

**Violent
Crime**

2014

2013

Homicide			
3		0	
Forcible Rape			8
	14		
Robbery			16
	21		
Aggravated Assault			89
77			
Violent Crime Total			116
112		Down 3.4 percent	
Property Crime			
Burglary			171
	147		
Larceny			368
	332		
Motor Vehicle Theft			46
37			
Property Crime Total			
585	516	Down 11.8 percent	

During 2014, the police department focused attention on habitual, repeat offenders and drug related crime.

This work included:

- **Felony drug arrests** 67
- **Illegal marijuana grows** 24
- **Habitual offender arrests** 56

These efforts appear to have had a positive influence on crime; however, it is important to recognize that crime rates

are heavily influenced by many factors such as overall economy, demographic change and more.

So, why are crime rates important? Crime rates are always considered an important factor for publications like, “best places rated” (to live, visit, retire, etc). When crime is a problem, community attractiveness suffers. While this is a critical factor for South Lake Tahoe as a tourist destination, crime rates are important for all of us to feel secure. High crime rates affect things like insurance costs and can have a devastating effect on the overall economy.

I am hopeful that next year we will see a continuing downward turn in crime. The effects of Proposition 47 (e.g. lowering crimes from felonies to misdemeanors and letting criminals out of prisons) may make this prospect difficult. Given this challenge, your police department has plans to focus resources to counteract these negative effects.

Brian Uhler is the South Lake Tahoe chief of police.

Interchange work to impact travel on Hwy. 50

All westbound lanes on Highway 50 in El Dorado County are scheduled to be closed overnight starting March 1 as part of ongoing construction of the county’s Silva Valley interchange project.

The \$57 million project in El Dorado Hills is to construct a new overcrossing over Highway 50, new on- and off-ramps with signalized intersections, and new bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Westbound Highway 50 from Bass Lake Road to El Dorado Hills Boulevard is scheduled to be closed from 11pm to 5am Sunday March 1-7. The westbound Bass Lake Road on-ramp will close at 10:30pm and reopen at 5am.

During the closures, traffic will be detoured 6.5 miles via El Dorado Hills Boulevard, Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road. Motorists should plan for an additional 10-15 minutes travel time and use alternate routes if possible.

For more information on the project, email silvavalley@edcgov.us or go online.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce is putting on a beginning QuickBooks class March 11 from 9am-2pm about setting things up, while the March 18, 9am-2pm class is about data entry, and March 25 is putting it to use. They are at Lake Tahoe Community College. For more info, go online.
- The 4.5-mile Kingsbury Stinger Trail will start construction in June with full time USFS crews and TAMBA volunteer days.
- Heavenly Mountain Resort expects to close April 19.
- South Tahoe Public Utility District is having a workshop March 3 from 2-5pm about the 10-year financial plan and 2015-16 budget. The meeting is at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe.
- Johnson-Perkins and Associates Inc. has split its Reno and Lake Tahoe offices. Johnson Valuation Group Ltd. will be a new

real estate appraisal firm based in Lake Tahoe serving Nevada and California.