

California looking for duck stamp artists

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is seeking waterfowl artists to submit original artwork for the 2018-19 California duck stamp art contest. Submissions will be accepted from May 11-June 11.

The contest is open to U.S. residents who are 18 years or older as of March 5, 2018. Entrants need not reside in California.

The winning artwork will be reproduced on the 2018-19 California duck stamp. The top submissions will also be showcased at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association's annual art show in July.

The artwork must depict the brant, a species of goose.

The design is to be in full color and in the medium (or combination of mediums) of the artist's choosing, except that no photographic process, digital art, metallic paints or fluorescent paints may be used in the finished design. Photographs, computer-generated art, art produced from a computer printer or other computer/mechanical output device (air brush method excepted) are not eligible and will be disqualified. The design must be the contestant's original hand-drawn creation. The entry design may not be copied or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs, or from images in any format published on the Internet.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed participation agreement and entry form. These forms and the official rules are available **online**.

Entries will be judged at a public event in June.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Heavenly Village is having a wine walk on March 22 from 4-7pm. With the help of several Amador County wineries, each shop in the village will be hosting a tasting station. All donations will go to Christmas Cheer. Cost is \$15.
- At the March 13 meeting of the South Lake Tahoe Republican Women Federated Club there will be information about ballot issues and measures on the upcoming election. The lunch is at 11:30am at the Cantina on Emerald Bay Road. Cost is \$15. Call 530.541.1120 to RSVP.
- Experimental Aircraft Association Truckee Chapter 1073 will be having a pancake breakfast on the second Saturday of each month, and offers free airplane rides to youths 8-17, all at the Truckee Tahoe Airport. Registration starts at 8am and flights start soon after. Breakfast is \$5-\$7. RSVP to yecoord1073@outlook.com.
- Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association filed its notice of appeal in the fire prevention fee case on March 1.
- Liberty Utilities is planning an outage in Kings Beach area along Brook Avenue on March 8 from 8:30am-4pm to replace an overhead wire.

New Calif. drought

regulations cause an uproar

By Tara Lohan, Water Deeply

Last month, California's State Water Resources Control Board postponed a decision on the adoption of new statewide regulations meant to curb wasteful water practices. The regulations would make permanent some rules California enacted temporarily during the recent drought, which ended last year.

After several public comment periods this winter, water board staff tweaked the regulations to address concerns and recommendations from water users and other groups, but the postponement came after a large number of water agencies claimed the regulations are a violation of water rights.

"We believe using waste and unreasonable use as the tool to reach these conservation objectives is problematic and inconsistent with the law," read a comment letter to the board signed by dozens of water agencies. "The regulation is defective because it has the effect – if not the purpose – of diminishing water rights by legislative means, without any process whatsoever."

Read the whole story

Snow covered mailboxes a problem for carriers

Postal carriers in and around the Lake Tahoe area are having a hard time delivering mail because they can't reach mailboxes.

Carriers were unable to deliver to approximately 500 addresses

in the last week because side streets were impassable or mailboxes were inaccessible in Truckee, Incline Village, Crystal Village and South Lake Tahoe.

The U.S. Postal Service offers this advice:

- If you receive delivery of mail to a rural-type post mailbox, clear around the box to allow your carrier to drive up to the box, deposit mail and drive away.
 - If your delivery is at a cluster box, work with your neighbors to clear around the front of the box and the back of the box where the carrier accesses the box to load.
 - If your mail is delivered at your residence or business, keep the path to your mailbox or slot clear of snow and ice.
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TTD wants feedback on transit in the basin

Tahoe Transportation District would like to hear from everyone—residents, commuters, and visitors who use transit in the basin.

This could be people who have been on the winter ski shuttles to access Heavenly, taken the trolley to Emerald Bay in the summer, or riders using the bus to commute or shop or some other reason.

TTD wants people to take **this survey** whether they are regular or sporadic users. Feedback will be used to help improve the transit system.

Nev. panel keeps barrier between gaming, pot

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

If state gaming regulators follow the lead of Gov. Brian Sandoval's 12-member Gaming Policy Committee, the gaming industry and Nevada's new marijuana distributors will never share a business relationship.

The only time their paths may cross will be when marijuana companies stage conferences at resort convention centers and exhibition halls to bring business people together to talk shop. But the companies will be prohibited from bringing products to those exhibitions.

No marijuana smoking lounges at resort properties; no landlord-tenant relationships for the sale, cultivation or distribution of marijuana; no financing deals benefiting either a gaming company or a pot provider.

Read the whole story

Opinion: SF vs. L.A.: A contest of contempt

By Joe Mathews

Which city—San Francisco or Los Angeles—do you love to hate

more?

This is shaping up to be California's question for 2018. Each of the top contenders for governor is a former mayor of one of those cities, and each embodies certain grievances about his hometown. And backers of both candidates are already playing to resentments about these two places.



Joe Mathews

Gavin Newsom, like San Francisco, is derided as too wealthy, too white, too progressive, too cerebral, too cold, and so focused on a culturally liberal agenda that you might call him out of touch. Antonio Villaraigosa, like Los Angeles, is derided as too street, too Latino, too instinctual, too warm, and so unfocused in his economically liberal agenda that you might say he lacks a center.

The interesting news of this contest of city loathing is that there is a contest at all.

For decades, Los Angeles has been second to none in the amount of contempt it feels from other Californians. The City of the Angels—with its smog and traffic and gangs and phony Hollywood stars—represented everything the rest of the state was determined not to be. “Beat L.A.” was such a unifying chant—heard in stadiums and arenas from Sacramento to San Diego—that it could have replaced “Eureka” as the state motto.

San Francisco, on the other hand, was a place that Californians preferred to love. It was small and beautiful—the perfect weekend getaway.

But over the last generation, the relative positions of the cities have changed. Los Angeles has weakened—especially since the early 1990s recession—while San Francisco has become unimaginably wealthy and powerful.

In their study, “The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons From San Francisco and Los Angeles,” UCLA’s Michael Storper and other researchers showed that the Bay Area and Greater L.A. were similar in the 1970s in household income, innovation, investment, education and creative jobs. But they have since diverged so that the Bay Area’s household incomes are 50 percent higher, and L.A. now lags in educational attainment and investment.

The study found that San Francisco’s open culture encouraged the exchange of ideas that drives growth, while L.A.’s top-down economy, dominated by a few key players, translated into less intellectual ferment, and too much investment in the old economy.

But this new, advanced, San Francisco Bay Area has stirred more resentment. It is too expensive for most Californians to even contemplate living there. Its technology companies now reach into our intimate lives, disrupting our livelihoods.

San Francisco also has taken over the state’s politics. One of our U.S. senators, Dianne Feinstein, is a former San Francisco mayor, while the other, Kamala Harris, is a former San Francisco district attorney. This power is not just the product of a tough San Francisco political culture that breeds competitive candidates; it also reflects a public that participates more. Though the Bay Area has a million fewer voters than Los Angeles County, in elections the Bay Area often records more votes.

San Francisco, once famously open-minded, now faces the slur that it is unrepresentative—too narrow in its thinking. Peter Thiel, the conservative billionaire tech investor who backed

Donald Trump's presidential campaign, is relocating his residence, business and foundation to L.A., because "Silicon Valley is a one-party state" that only tolerates liberals.

Of course, both cities are liberal places and have much in common, as do the two former mayors. Newsom and Villaraigosa are among America's most progressive politicians, representing two of America's most progressive places—though both have been friendly to business and development. Both are extraordinarily bright men who, perhaps because they struggled as students, sometimes betray insecurity about their intellectual faculties. Both endured personal scandals for which their cities have forgiven them.

And both come from cities facing similar challenges: sky-high housing prices, unrelenting homelessness, outdated infrastructure, and unbalanced economies that don't produce high-enough working-class wages. Both cities have a power to create their own alternative realities—and spawn some pretty daft ideas.

Ideally, California would get a governor who brings lessons from both cities.

Newsom, having run San Francisco, has experience navigating freakishly Byzantine politics and governing in a one-party place, which is what Sacramento has become. And Villaraigosa, having run a sprawling state-sized city, understands how to seize the attention of an apathetic public in a place with weak civic institutions, which describes much of California.

I wish Antonio had more of Gavin's Bay Area jones for data. And I wish Gavin had some of Antonio's L.A. groundedness and horse-sense. But what I most wish is that, during this year's political fight between two cities, we don't forget just how lucky California is to be home to both.

Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zócalo Public Square.

Mayor blows it with special closed session meeting

By Kathryn Reed

The South Lake Tahoe City Council on Tuesday again demonstrated its dysfunction.

Mayor Wendy David on Monday scheduled a special closed session meeting for March 6 at 5pm.

Only the mayor or a majority of the council may schedule such a meeting. David admitted she called the meeting. She did not elaborate.

The agenda said pending litigation. It's not known what suddenly became so urgent; not even all the other council members knew.

"I'm uncomfortable with the special meeting coming up at 5 o'clock that was agendized yesterday," Councilwoman Brooke Laine said Tuesday before the council was supposed to go into closed session for other reasons. Because she believed that special closed session was not agendized correctly she said she would not be attending that meeting.

Councilman Tom Davis as well acknowledged he had concerns about having this scheduled meeting.

Interim City Attorney Nira Doherty admitted it was not agendized correctly. Government Code mandates such notices be published on the governing body's website, Doherty said. That didn't happen. It was the city clerk's job to make that happen.

The city routinely sends out meeting notices electronically. *Lake Tahoe News* never received the notice about the meeting in question. This begs the question about transparency, with the mayor seeming to be the leader of city secrets.

David said the meeting would be rescheduled. When is unknown. Same with why it is even warranted. Same with why the media isn't being notified of all meetings.

Nevada continues to deny public records requests

By Michael Scott Davidson, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The state of Nevada refuses to divulge how much it has paid former employees for their unused sick and vacation leave.

Since October, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* has sought comprehensive information documenting how much money individual employees received when they retired, resigned or were fired. The request, if fulfilled in its entirety, would encompass employees spanning from department executives to rank-and-file workers such as DMV clerks.

The *Review-Journal* is seeking the records to better understand which former public employees financially benefit the most from policies that allow them to accrue and then collect hundreds of hours of unused time off.

Read the whole story

Kerry resigns as S. Lake Tahoe city manager

By Kathryn Reed

It's official – Nancy Kerry is no longer city manager of South Lake Tahoe.

"We've accepted the resignation of Nancy Kerry effective immediately," Mayor Wendy David said after emerging from about a 30-minute closed session meeting on March 6 at 6:05pm.



Nancy Kerry

Kerry told *Lake Tahoe News*, "I've really enjoyed the 10 gratifying years in the city tackling unique and complex issues. I'm really proud of what we accomplished as a team."

Asked why she resigned, Kerry would only say, "With all due respect, I am committed to leaving the city on the highest road possible. The city and I came to a respectful agreement."

It was a somber mood in council chambers when it was opened to the public. Council members Tom Davis and Jason Collin ducked out of the meeting via the side door, not staying for the announcement.

No one would talk to *Lake Tahoe News*, the only media outlet

who was there for the announcement, so it is not known what the vote was – unanimous or divided.

David and acting City Manager Jeff Meston retired to his office at City Hall. He retains that title. It will be up to the council to decide how to go forward with replacing Kerry on a permanent basis.

Kerry's departure has been clouded in speculation for more than a month. It started with the illegal hiring last fall of someone to study the culture of the city, which turned into an illegal review of Kerry.

Then she was placed on leave a month ago. On Tuesday it all came to an end. Still, though, the public is left wondering what really happened.

The settlement calls for Kerry to receive her nine month's severance (\$176,321) which her contract stipulated if she were let go without cause. She is also owed 339 hours of vacation leave and 520 hours of sick leave.

Had Kerry truly left on her own volition, this payment would never have occurred. Had there been actual cause for the separation in employment, Kerry would not have received any of this money either.

In some ways, the taxpayers are getting off cheap because Kerry could have sued the city on several allegations. Just the protracted litigation would have been costly.

The settlement states that Kerry cannot file "any claim against [the] city based on, or related to acts or events taking place on or before the effective date of this agreement. Employee understand that by making the above waivers and releases she has forever surrendered every claim, complaint, allegation of misconduct or cause of action of any kind or nature, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, at the time of the effective date of this

agreement.”

The council as a whole and individually are the city manager’s boss. That means the city manager is covered by labor laws like any other employee. So if one of the councilmen called a city manager “mommy” or made comments about clothes, weight or other appearance issues, the city manager would be able to sue for harassment or hostile work environment at a minimum.

Those accusations told to this reporter by community members/city staff will now not see the light of day and the people responsible not held accountable.