

LTCC on dual course to offer 4-year degrees

By Kathryn Reed

Lake Tahoe Community College is on a path that would allow students to obtain a four-year degree two ways.

One is through allowing universities to offer their programs on the South Lake Tahoe campus, the other is by being selected as one of the 15 community colleges in California to be part of a pilot program offering baccalaureate degrees.

"We really want to bring programs to Tahoe that will benefit Tahoe," LTCC President Kindred Murillo told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We would love to have UC Davis on campus. I think it would be a good partnership with (Tahoe Environmental Research Center) on the North Shore (at Sierra Nevada College)."

Through Measure F, the \$55 million facilities bond that voters approved last month, one line item was for a university center. There is \$825,000 in the bond to renovate a section of campus to allow for a CSU, UC or UNR to have a presence at LTCC.

The state will not pay for a university center.

But the ideal situation would be to have a standalone building that the higher education institutions could use for classrooms, registration and counseling.

Lisa Maloff is allowing this to occur with her \$5 million gift to LTCC. She is the widow of Bob Maloff, who at one time owned what was the Timber Cove Lodge. They both have been and continue to be, through this donation, supporters of the college. This is the single largest donation the college has ever received.

Maloff was not available for comment.

"She doesn't want a lot of recognition. She is very humble about this. She wants to do something for the college and the community," Murillo said.

A university center is a location on a community college campus occupied by staff from four-year colleges who offer their programs locally. It gives them their own identity.

"They are not part of us," Murillo explained. That means LTCC staff does not register students for those classes, nor offer counseling or anything else. The universities are essentially renting space from LTCC.

Depending on how many institutions are interested and when classes would be offered, the center could handle three to four colleges.

"One thing I'd like to see is a teaching credential, particularly for bi-literate teachers," Murillo said. "I have to directly negotiate with the university and work with them."

That will be done over the course of the next year.

It's estimated it will take about 3½ years from now for the building to be done. Plans need to be drawn, permits obtained, the state architect's office will be involved, and then construction of the approximately 5,500-square-foot facility begins.

If the \$825,000 from the bond is needed for the larger facility, then that is where it will go. Otherwise the college will figure out how it will be spent on other facilities.

The other way the college is looking to add four-year degrees is through the state. The college this week filed an application with the intent to be part of a pilot program. LTCC is proposing a public safety administration degree.

With the current course offerings, this would complement what is in place. Today LTCC offers an associate of arts and transfer degree in criminal justice, and three AA degrees and certificates in the area of fire, including fire science, fire officer, and fire academy.

A team comprised of Chancellor's Office staff, a member of the business and workforce community, CSU and UC representatives, and community college staff from districts that did not apply to host a program will review the proposals. The chancellor will then make a recommendation to the CSU and UC systems. The final decision is expected Jan. 21.

Editorial: Cope with the drought by thinning forests

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the Nov. 20, 2014, Desert Sun.*

A U.S. Forest Service analysis of the 2013 Mountain Fire showed that controlled burns and other efforts to thin the forest were effective in some areas.

However, the efforts have been paltry. Richard Minnich, a fire ecologist and UCR professor, calls prescribed burns that have been carried out in the past decade "postage stamps."

Much more needs to be done.

The Mountain Fire was sparked by an electrical failure on private property near the intersection of highways 74 and 243 in the Idyllwild area on July 15, 2013. It burned more than 27,500 acres and cost \$26 million over two weeks to fight.

Smoke from the fire cascaded into Palm Springs.

Read the whole story

Federal judges deal mixed hand to tribe's bid for Amador casino

By Michael Doyle, McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON – Federal judges far from California dealt a mixed hand this week to a long-debated casino proposed for the Amador County foothills near Ione.

On Tuesday, a top appeals court rejected the Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians' bid to intervene in a lawsuit challenging federal approval of the casino. Tribal leaders had wanted to intervene so they could defeat the underlying lawsuit through a powerful claim of sovereign immunity.

The unanimous, 10-page decision Tuesday by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit means a trial judge can rule on the merits of a challenge filed by Amador County more than nine years ago.

But while the ruling Tuesday was a bit of a blow to the Buena Vista Rancheria, a Supreme Court decision issued Monday helped the tribe.

Read the whole story

'12 Days of Christmas' items cost more than \$116K

The cost of six geese-a-laying spiked considerably this year, while most of the items in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," saw little to no increase, according to the 31st annual PNC Wealth Management Christmas Price Index.

A set of gifts in each verse of the song would set you back \$27,673 in stores, an increase of less than \$300 – or 1 percent – from last year. But shoppers turning to the Internet would see a bigger bump of about 8 percent over last year's online prices, bringing the set of gifts in each verse to \$42,959. Buyers looking to purchase all the items each time they were mentioned in the song – 364 that is – would spend \$116,273, a modest 1.4 percent increase from a year ago.

PNC's sources for the Christmas Price Index include retailers, the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia-based PHILADANCO and the Pennsylvania Ballet Company.

Here is a look at the full set of prices from PNC Wealth Management:

Partridge, \$20; last year: \$15

Pear tree, \$188; last year: \$184

Two turtle doves, \$125; last year: same

Three French hens, \$181; last year: \$165

Four calling birds (canaries), \$600; last year: same

Five gold rings, \$750; last year: same

Six geese-a-laying, \$360; last year: \$210

Seven swans a-swimming, \$7,000; last year: same

Eight maids a-milking, \$58; last year: same

Nine ladies dancing (per performance), \$7,553; last year: same

10 lords a-leaping (per performance), \$5,348; last year: \$5,243
11 pipers piping (per performance), \$2,635; last year: same
12 drummers drumming (per performance), \$2,855; last year: same.

– *Associated Press*

Hwy. 89-Fanny Bridge realignment to be discussed

Highway 89-Fanny Bridge will be the focus of a Dec. 4 meeting.

There will be an overview and update on the environmental document, design elements, and next steps for this revitalization project in Tahoe City.

The meeting is being hosted by the Tahoe Transportation District at Granlibakken Resort from 5-6:30pm.

The project intends to improve the safety of vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist mobility at the Tahoe City Y, increase emergency access and egress; resolve structural integrity of 86-year-old Fanny Bridge; assist in alleviating traffic back-ups; and create a vibrant and walkable commercial area.

The design is scheduled to be complete in September 2015. Construction could begin in May 2016.

Specific questions, inquiries and suggestions may be directed to Margaret Skillicorn at suggestions@fannybridge.org or 775.846.2381.

House votes to expand N. Nevada tribal land

By Steve Tetreault, Stephens Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON – A bill to expand the reservations of six Indian tribes in Northern Nevada was approved Monday in the U.S. House.

Lawmakers by voice vote passed a measure that places 45,000 acres in trust for tribes in Humboldt, Washoe and Elko counties and for the Pyramid Lake Paiutes, whose land encompasses parts of Lyon, Washoe and Storey counties.

The bill also allows the sale of 275 acres to the city of Elko for a motocross park.

[Read the whole story](#)

Pet photos to raise funds for ACT

Santa will be at the South Lake Tahoe Pet Station Dec. 7 and Dec. 13.

Pictures with pets is a fundraiser for Animal Coalition of Tahoe. All proceeds will support ACT's spay-neuter program and the animal shelter in Meyers.

The photo studio will be upstairs at Pet Station near the dog wash. Do not bring pets other than dogs.

Photos will be taken from noon-3pm each day.

Pet Station is at 2205 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

SLTFD about to roll out decorated truck

The South Lake Tahoe Fire Department will continue the holiday tradition of driving through neighborhoods and passing out candy canes to youngsters. The engine leaves station 2 at 5pm nightly.

Here is the schedule:

Dec. 10 Tahoe Keys and Venice
Dec. 11 Glenwood
Dec. 12 Tahoe Keys and state streets
Dec. 13 South Y and Tata Lane
Dec. 14 Barton and Tahoe Island
Dec. 15 Al Tahoe Boulevard
Dec. 16 Springwood and Bijou Pines
Dec. 17 Main areas and Highway 50
Dec. 18 Stateline and hotels
Dec. 19 Ski Run Boulevard
Dec. 20 Heavenly Valley
Dec. 21 Gardner Mountain
Dec. 22 Sierra Tract
Dec. 23 Stateline and Pioneer Trail

Dec. 24 Lake Tahoe Boulevard.

What will GOP do with its new power in Nevada?

By Kyle Roerink, Las Vegas Sun

Gov. Brian Sandoval and Nevada's Republican Party will call the shots in the Legislature.

They will drive the hard decisions on the state's \$20 billion budget, Clark County's failing public school system and the rising costs of health care.

But the Republican Party also must deal with itself.

The GOP scored an Election Day victory that was as unexpected as it was unprecedented. The party united for the win but now must remain together during the legislative session. It won't be easy.

Ideologically, Nevada Republicans cover the spectrum.

Read the whole story

Full House proxy fight ends

By Howard Stutz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Veteran gaming executive Dan Lee was named CEO of regional

casino operator Full House Resorts Monday, ending a two-month proxy fight for control of the Las Vegas-based company.

Full House owns three casinos: one in Indiana, one in Mississippi and the Stockman's Casino in Fallon. The company also manages the Grand Lodge Casino at Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe under a lease agreement. In September, the company's management contract for an Indian casino in New Mexico ended.

Lee, who led an investor group that controlled 6.2 percent of Full House shares, wanted to increase the size of the board and direction of the company that operates three casinos and manages a fourth.

Full House said CEO and Chairman Andre Hilliou will step down and the board will almost double to nine members.

Read the whole story