

USFS project limits South Shore trail access

The U.S. Forest has reduced access to parts of the South Shore for a fuels reduction and forest health project.

The work began last week off forest roads 12N15 and 12N08 (Powerline) near Trout Creek southwest of Columbine Trail near South Lake Tahoe. The Forest Service will close the areas in units 74, 1074, 199, and 1199 from 7am-6pm daily now through Dec. 1 for public safety due to heavy equipment operations and falling trees.

Hazards may be present even when operations have finished for the day and the closure is not in effect. Individuals disregarding the closure may be cited, with subsequent fines or jail time.

The forest thinning is part of the South Shore Fuels Reductions and Healthy Forest Restoration Project, which will treat approximately 10,000 acres between Cascade Lake and Stateline.

Here is a map of the area.

U.S. kids need playtime intervention

By Katie Arnold, Outside

So far this summer has been one of the wettest and coolest on record across much of North America. In Ontario, where my

family and I spent a month at our island cottage, the thermometer topped 80 only a couple of times. Many days started out damp and chilly, but I'd bundle our two daughters in sweats and fleece and boat across the channel to Juniper Island for the usual morning drill: swimming, canoeing, and tennis lessons, a kind of retro DIY day camp that's been a tradition on Stony Lake for more than 50 years.

By 4pm most days, the wind would have scrubbed the sky clear of clouds, and my daughters would fling themselves off the front dock or we'd go paddle boarding or motor across the lake to visit friends. But when the wind was blowing hard out of the north or west, sending whitecaps barreling down on our point and making it too blustery to be on the water, Pippa, 6, and Maisy, 4, took a more laid-back, old-fashioned approach to summer: They played.

A generation ago this wouldn't have been worth noting. Playing was what kids did, naturally. But with the onset of schedules and screen time, free-play among children has been steadily decreasing since the mid-1950s. According to two studies out of the University of Michigan, as reported by Peter Gray in the *American Journal of Play*, children's play time fell by 25 percent from 1981 to 1997; outdoor play has plunged by 50 percent, with kids today spending a mere 4-7 minutes per day goofing off outdoors.

Read the whole time

Time to dispose of old

prescriptions

Got drugs? National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is Sept. 27.

South Lake Tahoe police officers will be collecting prescription drugs from 10am-2pm in the Safeway parking lot on Johnson Boulevard and Highway 50.

The National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Former Harrah's president dies



Lloyd T. Dyer

By Guy Clifton, Reno Gazette-Journal

Lloyd T. Dyer, and former president and CEO of Harrah's and a

longtime Reno civic leader, died Sunday night.

He was 87 and died after a brief battle with cancer, his son, Greg, said Monday.

Lloyd Dyer went to work for Harrah's in 1957, starting in the cashier's office and working his way up through the company. In 1971, while serving as vice president of finance, he was instrumental in making Harrah's the first pure gaming company to be publicly traded, first on the Pacific Stock Exchange and then the New York Stock Exchange.

Read the whole story

Building gone, Lake Tahoe now visible



The Alta Mira building.
Photo/Bill Kingman



The building being razed
Sept. 15. Photo/Provided



The pile of debris.
Photo/Provided

The Alta Mira building on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe came down Sept. 15 in less than two hours.

The California Tahoe Conservancy bought the 0.55-acre property.

This area is the end point for what started as the 56-acre project. Beautification from this parcel to El Dorado Beach would complete the Lakeview Commons project. That will take more than \$4 million to complete. No money is in the bank to start it. (Lakeview Commons cost more than \$6 million.)

The remaining acreage in the bigger project is across the street and includes Campground by the Lake.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- “Last Weekend”, the film shot at Lake Tahoe and now in movie theaters, was also shot at Barton Memorial Hospital. This trailer shows a brief clip inside the South Lake Tahoe hospital.

- Diamond Peak Ski Resort season pass holders will receive bonus days at Boreal Mountain Resort and June Mountain Ski Area in addition to Homewood Mountain Resort and Red Lodge Mountain.
 - California Conservation Corps in Meyers is having an open house Oct. 1 from 10am-2pm.
 - Placer County has overhauled its website.
 - Kyle Mohagen is principal of Kings Beach Elementary and Greg Wohlman is our principal of Sierra Continuation High School, Coldstream Alternative, and Educational Options in Truckee.
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Illegal pot grows increasing

problem in S. Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

Inhale deeply in many South Lake Tahoe neighborhoods and the stench of skunk permeates the nostrils. But it isn't wildlife; it's marijuana being grown indoors.

Need some weed? South Lake Tahoe is your answer – especially for people with medical marijuana cards. Tahoe Wellness Cooperative, the only medicinal marijuana shop in the city since the other two were shutdown, has 19,000 members. (The whole city has 21,286 residents.) Cody Bass, who runs the dispensary, says 8,000 of them are locals. (This is more than the number of registered voters.)

The city in 2011 made pot shops legal with an array of rules that had to be followed. An audit of TWC this summer showed the collective didn't provide the quantity of pot coming and going from the Highway 50 facility. This has Police Chief Brian Uhler concerned. For one, it's part of the ordinance that the amount of pot bought and sold must be provided to city officials when requested. Second, it means it is hard to discern where the pot is coming from – locally, imported, clients, other. Third, officials don't know if the outgoing pot is going to patients or being sold illegally.

Uhler gave a presentation to the South Lake Tahoe City Council on Sept. 16 that raised a number of questions.

"We don't know marijuana is not being diverted into illegal markets because there are not adequate records," Uhler said.

He said his main concern for getting a handle on the situation is for the health and safety of the community. Fire is of the utmost concern.

The blaze at the mobile home last week had an illegal

marijuana grow inside.

However, Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News*, “(The) fire was undetermined, so no conclusions if it was caused or not caused by the grow.”

Still, illegal grows are problematic. Many have overloaded the electrical system, which leaves the system susceptible to fire.

“Marijuana grows are 24 times more likely to catch fire than a normal structure,” Uhler said.

Thirteen grows have been found in the city this year. Gareth Harris, fire chief with Lake Valley, said in his jurisdiction 20 illegal grows have been found in 2014.

“We are just scratching the surface,” Uhler said.

He estimates there are 300 illegal grows in the city. Only nine are legally permitted. Matt Underhill, commander for South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team, told the council there could be just as many illegal grow houses on the South Shore of El Dorado County.

He said SLEDNET receives between six and 12 complaints a week about suspected illegal grows. Investigating them all takes time and resources, which diverts agents from dealing with the more serious drugs in the community like heroin, meth and cocaine.

Uhler believes if the pot ordinance were tweaked a bit to take away the financial incentives for growers, that there may be fewer issues in town. He wants the dispensary to only be able to receive marijuana from permitted residential cultivators. He also wants to make sure people are then growing the limited amount allowed. This, he said in his PowerPoint, would cut off “illegal cultivators from their source of revenue.”

Later this fall the council will revisit the issue. Tuesday’s

session was just information and not an action item.

Letter: S&H Holdings takes turn at Bread & Broth

To the community,

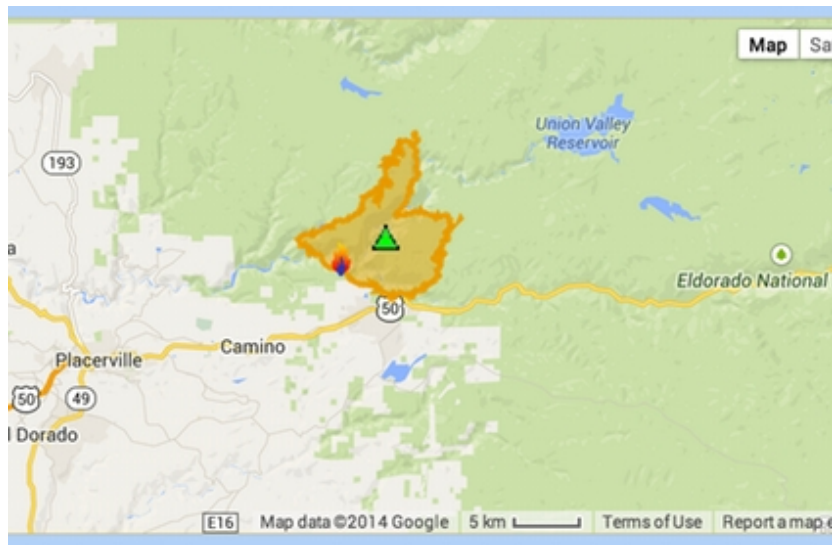
Feeding those in need has been the focus of the Bread & Broth program for the last 25 years and it has only been through the tremendous generosity of individuals, churches, organizations and businesses of our South Shore community that the program has been so successful in providing hot, well balanced and nutritious meals to our dinner guests.

S&H Holdings and its owner Valerie Soeter-Huse were the most recent Adopt A Day of Nourishment sponsors for the dinner served at St. Theresa Church's Grace Hall. On Sept. 8, Soeter-Huse and her fellow sponsor crewmembers Millie Meng Behan, Patti Rio-Sherwin, Donna Lassetter and Brenda Nance helped the B&B volunteers to once again welcome and feed those attending the dinner.

"True happiness comes from helping others and we were blessed with joy to be able to participate in Bread & Broth's community effort," wrote Rio-Sherwin of the group's experience that evening.

B&B would like to thank Soeter-Huse and her very helpful, positive and hardworking crew for their assistance and generosity of spirit by taking the opportunity to help people in need. For more B&B information, go online or find us on Facebook.

King Fire growing, Highway 50 closed



The King Fire is outlined in orange.
Photo/CalFire/Google Maps

Updated Sept. 16 11:45pm:

Several new evacuation orders were issued Sept. 16 for people in the path of the King Fire.

Evacuations are now in effect for the Crystal Basin: Highway 50 east of Fresh Pond to Ice House, north on Icehouse to Wentworth Springs, west to just above Quintette to include all campgrounds and businesses.

Voluntary evacuations have been issued for residences south of Highway 50 between Fresh Pond and Riverton, as well as Valconoville. There are 1,632 residences threatened.

The King Fire outside of Pollock Pines as of Tuesday night had burned 12,870 acres, with 5 percent containment. It is burning east, northeast at a rapid rate of speed. Agencies from throughout Northern California are working the fire, including crews from South Lake Tahoe and Lake Valley.

Highway 50 is closed in both directions from Sly Park to Fresh Pond.

The cause of the fire that started Sept. 13 is under investigation.

Smoke from the blaze has reduced traffic along Highway 50 to one lane for several miles. Smoke continues to be a factor in the Lake Tahoe Basin and Truckee, so much so that education officials are monitoring particulate levels to make sure students are safe.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Camino is also the evacuation center for people and small animals.

Pollock Pines Elementary School District will remain closed Wednesday.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

World hunger on the decline

By Rudy Ruitenberg, Bloomberg

World hunger fell in the past four years, with about 805 million people estimated to be chronically underfed in the 2012-14 period from 841 million in 2008-10, the UN's Food & Agriculture Organization said.

About one-in-nine people still go hungry, with insufficient food for a healthy and active life, from one-in-eight in 2008-10, it said. A goal set in 2000 of reducing the proportion of undernourished people in the world by half in 2015 “is within reach,” according to the report.

Strong economic growth in Asia as well as Africa is raising living conditions there, the United Nations’ Rome-based agency wrote in a report today. Seven of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world are in Africa, the FAO wrote.

Read the whole story