Lake Tahoe bike map updated

The Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition has produced an update to the Lake Tahoe Bikeways Map.

It is available throughout the Tahoe region for free.

This map illustrates the many bikeways in the Tahoe/Truckee region with one side dedicated to the South Shore area and the other side the North Shore.

A bikeway is an inclusive term used on the map to describe all facilities that bicycles may use and they include: separated bike paths, dedicated and shared highway bike lanes, neighborhood connector bike routes, and mountain biking trails. Also included on the map are points of interest, safety information, marinas, parks, and campgrounds.

Fifty thousand maps have been printed and are available at bike shops, visitor centers, lodging properties, and resorts through the region.

Maps may also be downloaded in specific geographic locations of interest.

Truckee hosting film festival

The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival will be a weekend of adventure, activism and community in Truckee on Sept 26-27.

On that Friday there will be a special screening of the Patagonia sponsored film, “DamNation” at 6pm.

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a collection of films from the annual festival in January in Nevada City, which is now its 11th year. Wild & Scenic focuses on films which speak about the environmental concerns and celebrations of our planet.

For more information, call 530.582.2909 or ndorr@townoftruckee.com.

Camp Rich corral permit up for renewal

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit is looking to reissue the 20-year special use permit for Camp Richardson Corral.

Comments are being taken until Sept. 22 on the proposal that would reauthorize the operation and maintenance of the corral and outfitting and guiding services. Guided trips on an approved network of National Forest System trails would continue in the Fallen Leaf Lake and Desolation Wilderness areas, along with wagon and sleigh rides in the Fallen Leaf Lake and Tallac Historic Site areas.

For more information, contact Dan Dill at 530.543.2640 or email drdill@fs.fed, or go online.

Goldman: Climate change hurting Lake Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

If treated wastewater weren't pumped out of the Lake Tahoe Basin, the clarity of the lake would be much different than it is today.

That was one of the messages delivered Aug. 21 by Charles Goldman during the South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District board meeting. The 83-year-old renowned limnologist has been studying Lake Tahoe for more than 50 years. While he has retired from teaching at UC Davis, he is still actively involved in what is going on with and at Lake Tahoe.

"This organization probably has had more to do with keeping Lake Tahoe blue than any other organization," Goldman said of the utility district.



Charles Goldman talks about climate change on Aug. 21 in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

He said helping to get sewage out of the basin may be his most important achievement.

Treated wastewater from STPUD is pumped over Luther Pass where it is then used as irrigation water for Carson Valley ranchers.

He is against any reclaimed water being used in the basin because of the energy it takes to make it useable, the air pollutants associated with the process and that phosphorous would reach the lake.

Goldman said if the wastewater stayed here the lake would likely be green by now.

This has a lot to do with climate change. The warming surface water of the lake and the increase in phosphorous are already altering how the lake looks and functions.

The fact that it doesn't get as cold at night as it used to in Tahoe contributes to a warmer lake, which in turn means the lake water is not mixing as often. Warm water is harder to mix than cold. All of this then can affect oxygen levels at the bottom of the lake. A warmer lake is contributing to more algae growing near the shoreline.

Algal growth increases at a rate of about 5½ percent each year at Lake Tahoe, according to Goldman.

He said if the amount of nutrients reaching Lake Tahoe is not reduced, things will worsen. Nutrients can produce neurotoxins, which are known to kill people and cows.

"That is one reason to keep nutrients out of Tahoe," Goldman said.

A picture of the United States proved how much of the country has already sustained unprecedented increases in warming.

The carbon dioxide level acceleration is rising at a level that he called "dire."

"It's strictly the result of burning fossil fuels of all

kinds," Goldman said.

His idea of bringing a monorail to the basin has fallen on deaf years for 52 years. It would get people out of their cars and reduce air pollution – a significant contributor to problems with Lake Tahoe.

Predictions are that by mid-century 65 percent of China's more than 46,000 glaciers will have disappeared, with all of them being gone at the next turn of the century.

The North Pole has already melted at times to where there is water standing on top of the ice. This in turn melts the ice faster because the water is warmer than ice, plus it doesn't reflect back to the atmosphere.

Climate change, Goldman said, is the largest threat to humanity since the Black Plague.

Opinion: Vaccinations critical for kids

By Michelle Feeney

As a parent, we want our children to be safe. Certain safety measures are designed to help keep children safe, like child safety seats, seat belts, and toddler gates. However, some parents may overlook one critical component to keep children healthy and safe: vaccinations. Current vaccinations are the most effective and safest they have been in history and have saved millions of lives from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines are ensured by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and monitored by the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), a national vaccine safety surveillance program.



Michelle Feeney

Side effects from vaccines vary, but the most common are discomfort, redness, or tenderness at the site of injection. Serious side effects following vaccination, such as severe allergic reaction, are rare. The CDC estimates 0.00001 percent of all vaccinations have a serious side effect. Considering the pain and suffering caused from acquiring these preventable diseases, for most people the benefits of vaccines outweigh side effects or getting the disease.

Families, healthcare professionals, and public health officials must work together to protect our community. Adults must also keep up on their vaccinations. Vaccinations help preserve the health of our community, especially individuals who cannot be vaccinated, including children who are too young or those who can’t receive certain vaccines for medical reasons, and the small portion of people who don’t respond to a particular vaccine.

Vaccines work by triggering the immune system to produce antibodies to fight antigens or disease, without being infected with the disease. In other words, vaccination protects us against a disease without getting the disease.

Each day, we are exposed to hundreds of viruses and antigens.

Miraculously, the human body can tolerate a large amount of immunologic stimuli without causing illness.

Vaccinations have greatly improved our overall health. Because of the polio vaccine, the U.S. has had no new polio cases since 1979. However, polio still exists in under-vaccinated countries such as Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Though preventable, it is a crippling and potentially deadly disease with no cure. Worldwide, cases have fallen from an estimated 350,000 in 1988 to 407 in 2013.

As a family nurse practitioner, I believe vaccinations are the safest way to protect ourselves and our community from devastating diseases. An immunization schedule works effectively with a child's immune system at specific ages and frequency. The CDC, FDA, and VAERS evaluate the immunization schedule yearly based on the most current information. Contact your primary care provider for what is currently recommended for you and your child.

For disease specific information and vaccination schedule, visit the following sites:

American Academy of Pediatrics

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Network for Immunization Information

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

Michelle Feeney is a family nurse practitioner at Barton Pediatrics.

Quagga DNA found in reservoir near Elko

South Fork State Recreation Area, which is seven miles south of Elko, has tested positive for quagga mussel DNA.

No adult quagga mussels or veligers (larval stage quagga) were found in that waterway, according to the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The reservoir is not considered infested at this time. Infestation is declared when adult quagga mussels are found in a body of water.

All boats entering or exiting the South Fork State Recreation Area will be subject to a mandatory inspection. NDOW is telling all boaters leaving South Fork to remove their plug, drain all water and dry their boat for at least five days before using that boat on another waterway. Alternatively, these boats can undergo commercial decontamination.

Mandatory inspection will continue until the end of October.

Quagga mussels can cause irreparable damage to a waterway.

AIS, boat inspection programs at Tahoe to continue

Funding has been secured to continue the invasive species and boat inspection programs at Lake Tahoe.

The federal Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force recently

approved a five-year revision to the Lake Tahoe Region Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan. The management plan guides collaborative efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species at Lake Tahoe. Chief among those efforts are boat inspections that were facing a major funding shortfall as soon as next year.

The Bureau of Land Management is providing $750,000 for the boat inspection program through at least 2015.

Approximately half of the funding for the boat inspection program comes from inspection fees paid by boaters.

Since 2009, Lake Tahoe's Aquatic Invasive Species Program has completed more than 37,000 watercraft inspections and more than 18,000 decontaminations.

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency overseas the programs.

Body found floating at Sand Harbor

The body of a man was found Friday morning floating near the boat ramp at Sand Harbor in Incline Village.

An autopsy has been scheduled to determine the cause of death and identity of the victim.

Bob Harmon, spokesman for Washoe County Sheriff's Office, said people playing at the beach on Aug. 22 called the department at 10:49am. They found the body in the water.

Harmon did not know if the victim was wearing regular clothes or a swimsuit.

He did not have any other details.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Nev., N.J. casinos link progressive slots

By Wayne Parry, AP

ATLANTIC CITY – A long-planned initiative to create bigger jackpots by linking casino slot machines in New Jersey and Nevada is up and running.

The New Jersey Gaming Enforcement Division says the progressive slots system links 100 machines in Atlantic City with 600 in Nevada. The progressive jackpots grow in size as more gamblers play them.

"The division is pleased to have been at the forefront of passing regulations and reaching out to other jurisdictions to enable this expanded gaming opportunity for Atlantic City," said director David Rebuck. "Much like multi-state lotteries, this new technology and cooperative regulatory agreements will allow combined progressive jackpots to grow, which should be very appealing to players looking for the opportunity to play for huge jackpots."

The system quietly went live Wednesday afternoon, and was announced by regulators Thursday morning.

Slot machines account for about two-thirds of the revenue won

by Atlantic City’s casinos.

It is the second multi-state system linking New Jersey slot machines with those in other states. Earlier this year, the state approved a compact with South Dakota. The two interstate slot systems are not connected with each other, though.

New Jersey casino regulators have been working on the plan for at least two years, and they are still looking for other states to participate in an expanded multi-state slots system.

It is one of many things the state is trying as it tries to reverse Atlantic City’s eight-year casino revenue decline, brought on by increased competition in neighboring states. New Jersey also legalized Internet gambling and tried unsuccessfully to overturn a federal ban on sports betting, among other initiatives.

The interstate concept is also a key to New Jersey’s plans for Internet gambling. The state plans currently limits Internet gambling to people physically present in New Jersey, but the law allows it to enter into compacts with other states or countries where Internet gambling is legal.

Division spokeswoman Kerry Langan says all 11 Atlantic City casinos are participating, including the three that are shutting down within the next few weeks: Revel, Showboat and Trump Plaza.

Arrest made in 2013 Incline Village murder

A Sonoma County man has been arrested in connection with the

December 2013 murder of an Incline Village resident.



Joseph John Personeni

Washoe County sheriff's detectives arrested Joseph John Personeni, 20, of Santa Rosa on one count of murder on Aug. 21.

On Dec. 22, 2013, Christopher Elliott, 46, was found dead on his porch on Northwood Boulevard in Incline Village.

According to investigators, Elliott and Personeni had been arguing and it escalated into a physical confrontation. The cause of death was blunt force trauma.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report