

Road work on Tahoe highways for 9 days

Several sections of Lake Tahoe highways are scheduled to be worked on over the next nine days, beginning in Tahoe City.

Grinding and paving work on Highway 28 at the Tahoe City Y is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, requiring reversing one-way traffic control on highways 28 and 89.

On Saturday, the contractor will be working on Highway 267 in Kings Beach. There will be one-way traffic control there as well from 7am-7pm, with up to 20-minute delays.

The schedule for the following week is again from 7am to 7pm, and again with up to 20-minute delays possible. The locations are:

- Oct. 30 work will be back on Highway 28 from Tahoe City to Dollar Drive.
- Oct. 31 there will be work on another section of 267 north of Kings Beach and restriping of the Tahoe City Y.
- Nov. 1 work is scheduled on 28 from Dollar Drive to Lardin Way.
- Nov. 2 work on Highway 28 will be from Old County Road to Carnelian Bay.
- Nov. 2 on Highway 28 from Chipmunk Street in Kings Beach to the Nevada state line.

Weather or other factors could delay the work.

2 hikers rescued from Mount Tallac

By David Caraccio, Sacramento Bee

Two lost hikers, who prepared for a day hike and got stuck on an El Dorado County mountain overnight, were rescued Monday by a California Highway Patrol helicopter crew.

The hikers were located on the east slope of Mount Tallac, a mountain peak southwest of Lake Tahoe, in the early morning hours. Mount Tallac lies in the Desolation Wilderness of the Eldorado National Forest.

[Read the whole story](#)

Amgen women, men cyclists returning to Tahoe



The lead this year changed several times
on Kingsbury Grade. Photo Copyright 2017
Carolyn E. Wright

By Kathryn Reed

South Lake Tahoe will be an integral spoke in the Amgen Tour of California 2018 cycling event with the women and men coming to town.

Both will be here May 18.

The women's second stage will begin and finish at Heavenly Mountain Resort as they have done multiple times – this being the fourth consecutive year. The men will finish stage 6 at the resort after leaving from Folsom that morning.

The exact routes, though, will not be announced until after the first of the year.

With the women only being in town for one leg, it's likely they will not ride around the lake. This year's route over Luther Pass, through the Carson Valley and up Kingsbury Grade was touted as being one of the best. Tourism officials like that this route showcased what the Sierra has to offer in terms of challenging terrain, elevation gain and scenic aspects.

The lead changed multiple times coming up Kingsbury, making for an exciting race for riders and spectators.

"There were some maneuvers there that changed the whole finish. That was pretty exciting," Carol Chaplin, executive director of Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "Some of these women, they are not first-timers. They have learned to deal with the environment."

The European tour, though, is not about altitude, so starting at more than 6,000 feet in itself is a challenge, let alone

climbing to more than 8,000 feet.

What the men bring is live coverage, which is great for the location to show off the scenery on television.

The last time the guys were in Tahoe they came over Luther Pass into the South Shore.

The main options from Folsom to South Lake are Luther or Echo Summit. With the race being on a Friday and the locals coming unglued with even the thought of Echo being closed, it's doubtful that will happen.

"I would much prefer Luther because it is the road less traveled," Chaplin said.

With the race being mid-month, the threat of nasty weather diminishes. It must be 45 degrees for riders to race. Snow, cold and wind have all been a factor here in the past for this race.

While the crowds have been less in Tahoe than in some locations, it's not really an event about putting heads in beds.

"We still feel this is a more of a media event. It's not about attracting overnight stays as much as it is telling the story about our outdoor recreation, cycling and elite events," Chaplin said.

And for 2018 Reno will be hosting the Interbike event, a massive trade show that will put the region on the map for cycling. Having Amgen a few months earlier will increase the awareness of the Tahoe-Truckee-Reno area being a cycling destination for roadies and mountain bikers.

In total, the Amgen women have three stages – each within the city they are at – Elk Grove, South Lake Tahoe, Sacramento. The men have seven stages – starting in Long Beach on May 13 and ending in Sacramento. From Tahoe they all will drive to

Sacramento for their respective final legs on May 19.

Future of Meyers wrapped in area plan

By Susan Wood

STATELINE – You sense it descending Highway 50 approaching the Lake Tahoe Basin. Things are a little different in the village a few miles west of South Lake Tahoe.

Cycling is all the rage. Golf can be played with a club or a foot. The Grade has long been the place to walk and socialize. Ski swaps reflect a community sharing thoughts and equipment. Santa arrives in a helicopter. The snow is a little deeper. The juice in the greyhounds at Divided Sky is a little sweeter. Dogs rule the outdoor dining at Getaway Café.

Meyers has come into its own as a quiet, recreational enclave full of possibility. This potential made its way into a fourth draft before the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency on Wednesday.

No action was taken, as this is but one in a number of meetings to be scheduled. El Dorado County is proposing a new area plan – in the works for at least five years – to replace the 1993 area plan.

County planner Brandan Ferry told the TRPA Governing Board's Regional Plan Implementation Committee that developing this plan meant keeping in mind Meyers "has its own identity" as a recreational hub.

"That's a key tenet to this plan," Ferry said.

Much of its focus is on bike and pedestrian trails and making them more user friendly with subtleties such as landscaping, benches and planter boxes. More acreage was zoned for recreation and conservation at 176 and 348, respectively. Conservation is critical, as Ferry identified the area as being the No. 1 pollutant of watersheds in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Key issues are being addressed to make the corridor an ideal place to live, work and visit. Interestingly enough, the regulatory agency is also undergoing a review of the region's collective of corridors. This one just happens to be the main entrance into the basin.

Meyers is loosely defined as an area spanning about 669 acres between the Pioneer Trail and Highway 89 intersections along Highway 50.

Within that area, the county studied provisions in commercial floor space, area allocations, density and land use. As a result of 14 public meetings, community and county input maintained the threshold for building height up to 42 feet for mixed use. That's 14 feet less than the allowance provided in the regulatory agency's Regional Plan.

The proposed plan serves to consolidate three existing commercial and community services zoning districts along Highway 50. This one proposed zoning district will be referred to as the "Meyers Community Center" for the sake of a title. A citizen action committee of sorts referred to as the Meyers Advisory Council will oversee the area.

The council's job will be crucial to the profile of the village.

One of the key challenges is integrating a community off a highway with a Main Street vibe.

Unlike the Stateline area, there are no lodging establishments

in Meyers. But this could change as Meyers has a little wiggle room for potential development.

The question comes into play when considering that up for sale is the Tahoe Paradise Golf Course, with its sprawling 50 acres of prime location, location, location.

When asked by TRPA board member Austin Sass about the property's possibilities, Ferry responded the land may see a cultural facility, transit center or a cross country ski area as examples.

"So that 50 acres could be developed?" Sass asked.

Whatever is placed there would need to protect the environmentally sensitive headwaters of Meyers Creek.

The public comment period on the plan's environmental impact report was completed. But more meetings will be planned, and more work needs to be done.

Transit transitioning

No other aspect of the plan is expected to command more scrutiny than the area of transportation.

On any given Sunday traffic backs up heading west as tourists make their way out of South Lake Tahoe through Meyers. On the flip side, critics contend motorists speed through town at other times, creating a safety hazard.

"Is Caltrans involved?" TRPA board member Jim Lawrence asked.

To that, Ferry affirmed the agency's role, saying: "We're working tightly with them," adding that the goal of "traffic calming" was a priority with the plan.

The proposal calls for removal of the U.S. Agricultural "Bug" Station at its current location, a crosswalk at Apache Avenue and two roundabouts. One would be situated at Pioneer Trail

and the other at the junction of highways 50 and 89.

The latter has prompted concern among some Meyers residents because of safety concerns. A few attended the meeting out of about a dozen people in the audience, signaling a large departure from the large, raucous crowds that gathered for the plan's early discussions.

Resident Leona Allen said she's concerned about roundabouts becoming a safety hazard and snow removal problem, especially after hearing from area law enforcement. This is despite transportation officials' claims of the opposite. She insists the focus should be on traffic "flowing," not necessarily "calming."

Allen was joined by Judy Clot, who also expressed opposition to a roundabout. She believes it will develop more congestion.

The Tahoe Paradise Park board member would like to see more stoplights, having witnessed a man in a wheelchair trying to cross the unusually wide highway with three children and almost getting hit by a car.

"They don't stop," she said, declaring people "don't notice." Further, Clot noted flashing lights near the agricultural center haven't helped either.

Clot advocated for a member of Tahoe Paradise Park to serve on the Advisory Council.

The Meyers Area Plan will need final approval from TRPA and the county.

Opinion: Precarious world for press freedom

By John Diaz, San Francisco Chronicle

The practice of journalism has rarely been more critical – or at greater risk – in the United States. Never before has a president of this nation so aggressively attempted to delegitimize and even threaten established news organizations that produce stories that undermine the narrative he is trying to create.

Public distrust of the media did not begin with the election of Donald Trump, but his constant drumbeat of “fake news” and claims of fabrication have only galvanized it.

Yet through the fog of Trump’s rhetorical war, several national news organizations – most notably the Washington Post and New York Times – have been doing a great public service with their investigative reporting of the allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 election and the many false statements from the Trump White House. If left to the dispatches issued from Trump and his surrogates, Americans would be under the mistaken impression that his son Donald Jr.’s summer 2016 meeting with the Russians was all about adoptions, millions of people voted illegally in 2016, the U.S. murder rate was the highest it’s been in nearly a half century, and his inauguration crowd was the largest in history.

Read the whole story

National park entrance fee may increase to \$70

By Felicia Fonseca, AP

The National Park Service is considering a steep increase in entrance fees at 17 of its most popular parks, mostly in the U.S. West, to address a backlog of maintenance and infrastructure projects.

Visitors to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, Zion and other national parks would be charged \$70 per vehicle, up from the fee of \$30 for a weekly pass. At others, the hike is nearly triple, from \$25 to \$70.

A 30-day public comment period opened Tuesday.

[Read the whole story](#)

Getting insurance through Nev.'s health exchange

By Michael Lyle, Las Vegas Sun

When President Trump signed an executive order last week to reform health care by destabilizing the market for individual insurance, various thought leaders likened the measure to a wrecking ball. With Congress repeatedly deadlocked over repealing the Affordable Care Act, Trump laid out an independent plan to cut subsidies while creating cheaper policies with fewer benefits and protections.

Consumers have a lot of questions and concerns about the process of purchasing affordable health care, just in time for open enrollment. It starts on Nov. 1 in Nevada, where about 89,000 people already are covered through the Silver State Health Insurance Exchange.

“We have seen (enrollment numbers) increase each year,” said the exchange’s communications officer, Janel Davis. “We are seeing a need for these plans.”

Read the whole story

Report: Extreme weather costing taxpayers billions

By Alex Seitz-Wald, NBC News

WASHINGTON — Climate change is costing taxpayers billions of dollars in disaster relief and the tab will only increase as extreme weather events become more common, according to a new government study.

The federal government has spent an estimated \$350 billion over the past decade responding to extreme weather and fire events, which are exacerbated by climate change, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report. It comes as Congress moves to approve billions of dollars in extra funding for hurricane relief.

“Climate change impacts are already costing the federal government money, and these costs will likely increase over time as the climate continues to change,” the report found.

Read the whole story

Trick & Retreat event at South Tahoe hotel

All trick-or-treaters are invited to the Tahoe Beach Retreat and Lodge for Trick & Retreat on Oct. 31 from 6-8pm.

The South Lake Tahoe hotel is providing a safe environment for youngsters.

Businesses are decorating rooms for kids to visit and get their treats. There will also be a bounce house, music, s'more making and more.

This event is free to the public and not only are little goblins but so are furry ones.

Food and drinks will also be available for purchase during the event.

Upgrades coming to SLT affordable housing

Residents in the 76-unit Sierra Garden Apartment complex are having the interior of the dwellings upgraded.

Property owners St. Joseph Community Land Trust, a local nonprofit organization, and Pacific Development Group, a Lodi-

based affordable housing developer, are infusing \$15 million into the South Lake Tahoe affordable housing complex on Lake Tahoe Boulevard. The renovation is being funded through low-income housing tax credits and tax-exempt bonds.

The remodel includes kitchens, bathrooms, floor coverings, fresh paint, new wall heaters and LED lighting fixtures. Eight units will become 100 percent ADA-accessible.

All buildings will be painted and a new roof overlay.

The boiler system will be replaced with high-recovery hot water heaters. This should result in a 10 percent energy cost savings.

In 2018, a resident activity center with computer stations, upgrades to the properties BMPs, drought-resistant landscaping, and new barbecue areas will be built.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*