

TERC director to talk about state of the lake

Geoff Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, will provide the annual state of the lake lecture on July 26.

He will talk about the most important factors that affected the health of Lake Tahoe last year. This is an opportunity to learn about the most pressing issues for this year and the new programs that are designed to address them.

Registration for this event is required. The program will begin at 6pm, with refreshments and no-host bar from 5:30-6pm at 291 Country Club Drive in Incline Village on the campus of Sierra Nevada College.

Cost is \$5.

Enforcement being bumped up on water

Operation Dry Water is a year-round boating under the influence awareness and enforcement campaign.

The mission of ODW is to reduce the number of alcohol- and drug-related accidents and fatalities through increased recreational boater awareness and by fostering a stronger and more visible deterrent to alcohol use on the water.

Operation Dry Water's heightened awareness and enforcement three-day weekend takes place annually around July fourth, a

holiday known for drinking and boating, and deadly accidents.

The 2018 Operation Dry Water heightened awareness and enforcement weekend will take place nationwide, June 29-July 1.

Housing at South Tahoe Y moving forward

Talks are under way to build 50 to 75 units at the Y in South Lake Tahoe.

The California Tahoe Conservancy has been working with Sutter Capital Group, owners of the Crossing, to acquire neighboring CTC parcels. The two entities are in exclusive negotiations.

In the next month CTC hopes to have a pre-application meeting with city and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency staff.

The CTC through its asset lands program is selling parcels it owns that are in town centers and are essentially in-fill. The state agency has taken a more hands-on approach as to how the property is then developed after having a questionable McMansion go up on one of its former holdings.

The plan is these units would be housing the average resident could afford and not high-end condos for tourists like what has been and is being built at the other end of town.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Opinion: Don't forget lessons from Angora Fire

By Ted Gaines

This Sunday marks the 11th anniversary of the devastating Angora Fire.



Ted Gaines

I will never forget the severity of what I saw 11 years ago when I toured the wreckage left behind from this destructive fire. The community has done a remarkable job of picking up the pieces and rebuilding their homes and the Tahoe regional economy. But residents and visitors can never be too vigilant. Tahoe is still at extreme risk for catastrophic wildfire and we need to take every reasonable measure to keep this area safe.

The Angora Fire scorched about 3,100 acres and destroyed 254 homes, costing many tens of millions in damages and in emergency response costs. Tahoe's conditions in June 2007 – steep canyons, ample fuel, dry years when the area received only 29 percent of normal precipitation, high winds – were a recipe for forest fire disaster. While this year's conditions are different in that the area has received more precipitation, the new vegetation growth in combination with hot summer days can lead to a dangerous fire season.

We must continue to implement the recommendations made by the

bi-state Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, which was formed in the wake of the fire by the governors of California and Nevada, aimed at strengthening the region's ability to prevent and respond to fire catastrophes. I will continue to do everything in my power to help make the region safer.

I encourage residents to do their part for fire safety by exercising extreme caution with cigarettes, campfires, tools, engines or anything else that could possibly spark or otherwise cause a fire – which is how the Angora Fire began.

State Sen. Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou counties.

Cougars and conservation topic of talk

Rick Hopkins, co-owner and senior conservation biologist at Live Oak Associates Inc., will make a presentation July 21 arguing against “traditional kill strategies” to control population of predators.

The event will take place at the Donner Memorial State Park Visitor Center in Truckee.

Doors open at 5 and the program begins at 5:30pm. There is a \$5 suggested donation; parking is free after 5pm.

Hopkins argues that “traditional kill strategies” not only do little to reduce conflict, but do little to conserve the species. One example is the killing of cougars by recreational

sport-hunting or prophylactic control methods – the kill strategy.

Interim SLT leader jumping into all topics

By Susan Wood

Interim City Manager Dirk Brazil sat across the table from citizens Wednesday for a fireside-type chat where he heard topics as diverse as the ones he's faced in the two weeks of being on the job.

South Lake Tahoe Mayor Wendy David introduced Brazil, who replaced former manager Nancy Kerry after a whirlwind of events, to the gathering of 15 people at the senior center June 20. This was David's fifth such "conversation" she stages each month to get up-close-and-personal with the citizenry.



South Lake Tahoe interim City Manager Dirk Brazil and Mayor Wendy David talk city issues with the public on June 20. Photo/Susan Wood

Topics ranged from dogs off leash, television reception and broadband expansion to vacation home rental permits, snow clearing and beautification of town. It might have been a welcome sign to Brazil, who rattled off a list of interesting issues that have crossed his desk in half a month.

A small sampling includes Lime bike safety, lake erosion, a murder, a clerk's sudden resignation, parking problems, solar power issues and even offensive public art. The crowd giggled, but no one asked for the background on the last one. Perhaps that stays under wraps.

Brazil has been keeping his eyes and ears open since coming out of retirement from his post in Davis, something he initially didn't expect he'd do.

"The right people asked. I don't know if it's an addiction, but it certainly is a calling," Brazil said about returning to government. CalPERS retirement guidelines allow him to work half the year once retired.

"It's pretty nice to be here. I've never worked somewhere where there's an ice arena, lake and airport – one that I work in," he said.

This doesn't mean he hasn't been around. Besides his three-year stint managing Davis, the government official worked in Yolo County in administration, California's Legislature under former Gov. Gray Davis and for the Fish and Game departments in this state and Washington.

Brazil knew that whatever post he might fill in for he'd see three constants every city manager in California must deal with: homelessness, vacation home rentals and cannabis.

Getting an update from Tahoe Prosperity Center's director Heidi Hill Drum on upgrading sketchy cell phone reception through the use of new towers and microcell sites put a whole new dimension on where he's landed.

He seemed fascinated about the patchwork nature of town, along with its unique quality and cultural character.

The latter is what Melissa Wong said she would like discussed and addressed more.

This message blended nicely into common courtesy when a woman who lives in the Bijou neighborhood expressed concern about dogs off leash that may look menacing.

David appreciated the comment, having shared her own experience.

"I'm glad you brought that up. We're paying a lot for (animal control)," she said. At Tuesday's meeting, the city was forced to grapple with a more than 50 percent increase in fees for its portion it pays El Dorado County for the service.

Governance is not easy and for the faint of heart.

One attendee even asked if Brazil would stay on, but he can't. Brazil is filling in until a permanent replacement is found.

"He reminds me of Kerry Miller," Carol Olivas said, rather smitten with Brazil. The 40-year Tahoe resident was referring to the former city manager from the 1980s.

When asked by *Lake Tahoe News* what he does in his leisure, Brazil told the gathering he likes to run, play golf and cook (though he humbly kept his specialty to himself). The adrenaline rush of running comes in handy after enduring long City Council meetings.

Opinion: Trump's tent city for children is a concentration camp

By Andrea Pitzer

What does it mean that the United States of America is taking children from their parents and detaining them in camps?

News of a tent city dedicated to holding children in harsh conditions should evoke alarm, not least because child detention has a long and nasty history. For centuries, children have been used as pawns by governments seeking to control their parents or their leaders. And children have been forcibly relocated in the United States before. Under slavery they were separated from their parents to extort labor and build wealth, while Native American children were taken from their families for re-schooling and to foster the expropriation of land.

But the idea of holding whole groups of children in detention on a widespread basis—not as labor in a rapacious economic system or to steal land, but with detention itself as the point—is part of a newer phenomenon. And this more recent form of detention, the version that the Trump administration has embraced for now, sits cleanly within the tradition of concentration camps.

While writing a book on camp history, I defined concentration camps as the mass detention of civilians without trial, usually on the basis of race, religion, national origin, citizenship, or political party, rather than anything a given individual has done. By this definition, the new child camp established in Tornillo, Texas, is a concentration camp. While tragic, this is hardly surprising, since the innovation of concentration camps rose in part out of the willingness to

detain children.

Women and children, together, constituted the overwhelming majority of the populations in the first detention sites publicly referred to as “concentration camps,” which appeared near the turn of the 20th century in Cuba and southern Africa. During a rebellion in Cuba, hundreds of thousands of women and children were driven off their land by Spanish soldiers, who destroyed their homes and crops, forcing them into miserable conditions behind barbed wire beginning in 1896.

American reporter Richard Harding Davis visited camps in three Cuban cities, finding detainees—known as *reconcentrados*—infected with smallpox and yellow fever in squalid temporary housing. He met babies whose “bones showed through as plainly as the rings under a glove.” Well over 100,000 Cuban civilians died as a result of conditions in these camps, a significant percentage of them children.

Concentration camps appeared again when the British forced families of rebel Boer fighters into tent cities in brutal conditions in southern Africa. It was understood at the time that the noncombatants were effectively hostages meant to get the men to surrender. A November 1901 letter to the *New York Times* about the British camps laid out the dynamic: “England, unable to conquer the Boer men, is striking at the women and children.” From the beginning, concentration camps targeted the most vulnerable.

Historian Peter Warwick records that in all, more than 27,000 Boer internees died, in the range of double the total number of combat casualties on both sides. Nearly 80 percent of the deaths in the camps were children. Segregated camps for black Africans had even worse conditions and less food, and ended up killing more than 14,000 detainees. In camps in both Cuba and southern Africa, atrocious death rates came not from massacres or gas chambers but from disease and starvation. Yet in these early camps, lethal as they were, most children remained with

siblings and their mothers.

Later camps would break with that precedent in shocking ways. In the last years of the World War II, Germans took children from non-Jewish foreign parents upon arrival in the regular concentration camp system, the Konzentrationslager, sending them for denationalization and integration into German society. The children of Jewish parents were more often sent to the subset of Nazi death camps dedicated to extermination of Jews as a people; typically, they were murdered on arrival.

In the wake of the death of millions and the abomination that Auschwitz and other death camps represent, classifying any other type of detention facility as a concentration camp can now seem obscene. But it is a mistake to avoid the term. The phrase “concentration camp” was used for sites of mass detention of civilians for nearly four decades before the Nazis came to power. Even their gentler incarnations, such as the internment of military-age males during World War I, harmed internees, and helped to rehabilitate and institutionalize the idea of camps, setting the stage for more lethal models.

Even after World War II’s end exposed concentration camps’ horrors, the mass detention of children continued and evolved. Between 1976 and 1983, officials of Argentina’s military dictatorship detained thousands of adults and stole their children. Some detainees gave birth in a room of the torture center in the officers’ residence at the Escuela Superior de Mecánica de la Armada in Buenos Aires, where detainees were interrogated and most of them executed, with hundreds of their children raised by pro-dictatorship families.

In Cambodia during the same era, the Khmer Rouge put children into forced labor camps, creating dedicated children’s work brigades. Elizabeth Becker, reporting from Phnom Penh, noted the shuttered schools and suspected some clandestine horror was underway when she caught a lone glimpse of “thin children,

barefoot and in rags” carrying firewood near the highway. As a nine-year-old, Sopheline Cheam Shapiro had to dig in rice fields from dawn to dusk after losing her father, two brothers, and a grandmother, along with uncles and cousins. “I am no different,” she later wrote, “from most of my generation.”

Camps have often emerged at moments of crisis or in response to a social challenge, when societies are vulnerable to fear or division. Just as detention of children was meant to wear down Boer guerrillas resisting imperial rule a century ago, the detention of children today is meant to deter parents from seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border.

These shelters may seem like a temporary solution, but irregular detention tends to persist and warp over time. The torture and extrajudicial detention that began at Guantanamo, Cuba, during America’s 21st-century “War on Terror” had roots in the treatment of Haitian asylum-seekers who were intercepted at sea and imprisoned on the base in the 1990s. HIV-positive detainees were segregated and held in such grotesque conditions (without access to adequate medical or legal assistance) that U.S. courts intervened.

Concentration camps rose out of aggressive strategies intended for use in fighting guerrilla insurgencies. Today neither a war on the border nor even a civil conflict can serve as an excuse for this policy. Though there is plenty of military rhetoric, what we really have is a concentration camp policy wielded against refugees, which has devolved into a war on children. The American Academy of Pediatrics has already announced that the policy of separation alone is enough to do significant harm to children. This shift in policy has been sprung on a complex, already overburdened asylum and immigration system with a history of abuse. Under the best of leadership, the surge in children detained would mean overcrowding, sanitation problems, and physical and mental health issues. We do not yet know how many children will be

unable to reunite with family members as a result of bureaucratic mix-ups, language barriers, and other issues. And things are unlikely to get better without intervention that ends the policy of separation. History shows that problematic detention practices become normal, and then they get worse.

We can already see the background demonization of refugee children in the pamphlet titled "Unaccompanied Alien Frequently Asked Questions" available through the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement. It reveals both how strongly fears of foreigners have taken root in the United States today, and how the process of locking up children is turning them into targets. The first three questions cover what impact shelters will have on the community, whether kids are carriers of infectious diseases, and whether they are involved with violent gangs.

What is likely to come next? The historical parallels are already evident. As in the era of the Boer War, politicians are saying that detainees locked up by the government against their will are burdening American taxpayers. Asylum seekers are blamed for bringing detention upon themselves, and more reprehensibly, on their children.

During the two-year existence of the Boer camps, mothers were blamed by British military officials and unsympathetic members of the public alike for the deaths of their children, said to be largely due to the ignorance and unsanitary habits of the mothers themselves. There was little acknowledgment of their involuntary confinement in dangerous conditions without enough food. And yet, it was obvious to early observers that this would not end well. In November 1901, an editorial in the *New York Times* cited the rising death toll in the camps, explaining that at current levels, "the Boer reconcentrados would be exterminated in less than four years."

There is no need to see how much history is willing to repeat itself before stopping the current experiment.

Andrea Pitzer is an editor-at-large with Zócalo Public Square and the author of "One Long Night: A Global History of Concentration Camps."

North Face joins the used gear movement

By Ariella Gintzler, Outside

As of this month, customers can purchase North Face apparel that's been worn, torn, washed, and restored to like-new condition through a collaboration with the Renewal Workshop.

The new site, called the North Face Renewed, launched earlier this month with a limited collection of refurbished items, mostly factory rejects and damaged returns. The items, which previously would have been unsellable, range from technical Summit Series outerwear to lifestyle apparel. Price drops range anywhere from 35 to nearly 50 percent.

"As we address the impacts of our products over their entire life cycle, re-commerce is an important next step in opening new markets and minimizing our impact on the planet," said James Rogers, North Face sustainability director, in a press release announcing the project. "We are furthering our sustainability goals without sacrificing durability or technical standards."

Read the whole story

CVS Health to deliver prescriptions to your home

By Associated Press

CVS Health is making prescription deliveries nationwide to accommodate the heightened expectations of convenience from consumers.

Comment on this story The nation's second-largest drugstore chain says it also will make home deliveries of other items, like allergy medicines, vitamins or household products. The service will cost \$4.99 for deliveries made in one or two days.

[Read the whole story](#)

Inspectors keep tabs on 'high hazard' dams near Tahoe

By Melissa Matheney, KRNV-TV

Inspectors say 20 to 30 dams in the Truckee Meadows are categorized as "high hazard."

The "high hazard" rating means if they were to breach, there would be catastrophic damage that could result in severe flooding.

The Bureau of Reclamation maintains dams at Tahoe, Prosser, Boca, Stampede and Lahontan reservoirs. A spokesperson says the work on the dams is constant.

Read the whole story