

Camp showers at state parks are not equal

By Tom Stienstra, San Francisco Chronicle

One little secret can save you money if you camp a lot at state parks this summer while on vacation. Especially for families.

That secret is about those little tokens you buy to take a shower at California's state-park campgrounds.

If you are someone who camps a lot – I camp as many as 200 days in a year – the difference for that number of nights would be \$200 against \$400 per year. On the road, you find out, the overhead can consume you. The motto is, “Many small leaks can sink a big ship.”

Read the whole story

Fresh Ketch to reopen; water on at Keys Marina

After more than **two weeks**, the water is flowing again at the Tahoe Keys Marina in South Lake Tahoe.

It has been shut off because of a dispute over unpaid bills.

The Fresh Ketch restaurant intends to reopen on July 29.

Donna and Robert Krilich and their son, Robert Krilich Jr., own the restaurant and Tahoe Keys Marina. They have been in a constant battle with the Tahoe Keys Property Owners

Association. TKPOA operates the Tahoe Keys Water District, which supplies water to all of the homeowners as well as commercial entities in this South Shore enclave.

Even though the water is flowing, there has not been resolution regarding the \$80,000 bill.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Climate change taking toll on Lake Tahoe

By Linda Fine Conaboy

INCLINE VILLAGE – Despite all its beauty, Lake Tahoe is sick.

Climate change is the overriding factor for warming water, dying trees and the proliferation of invasive species. It's an uphill battle for scientists trying to keep the balance or even tip the scale into the healthy realm.

Geoff Schladow, director of the Tahoe Environmental Research Center, on July 27 presented the annual State of the Lake, touching on factors vital to Lake Tahoe's clarity.

Schladow gave a snapshot of the lake's health in 2016 using just-released data from TERC and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. He added humor to a fairly dismal look back, interjecting some of Shakespeare's droll quotes and riffing off the Bard's more waggish side.

Although the audience appreciated a nod to the humor of Shakespeare, Schladow's talk was a serious one not dissimilar from his 2015 review.



Scientists hope the sun has not set on their ability to combat the impact of climate change on Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Water temperatures continue marching upward, not good for a pristine high-elevation lake, he said. "This is climate change. Since 1968, the days of stratified water (warm water above cold water) has increased by 26 days."

In layman's terms, this stratification precludes the normal deep mixing of the lake's waters, a process vital to Lake Tahoe—it's the way the lake renews itself. The absence of a deep mixing of nutrients leads to warming water, contributing to a build-up of nutrients at the lake's bottom. According to Schladow, deep mixing has not taken place for at least six years.

"Normally the deep mix occurs in March, but it's still not happening. The nutrient levels are going up, nothing is moving them. Every day, the bottom of the lake is losing air," he said.

Some organisms find this state of the lake favorable; these, Schladow calls bad hombres. For example, *Cyclotella gordonensis* is flourishing, cloning itself in vast numbers, especially in 2016.

"As soon as it starts increasing, algae starts growing and clarity goes down. This is not the first time this has happened," Schladow said. However, he added, the good news is for many years there have been no new destructive species introduced to the waters of Tahoe.

However, those that are here now are not good, he said, citing an invasion of Asian clams in Marla Bay, discovered by what he calls, "citizen scientists."

Asian clams can relocate themselves to other areas via circulation cells within the lake, and are now located in Zephyr Cove and even Sand Harbor, where the thinking is that they arrived there by boat.

Schladow posed the questions: Is it a big deal to have clams in Lake Tahoe? What will happen if nothing is done?

Clams will reproduce, laying at the lake's bottom, causing algae to grow, which litters the shore. Clams then eat the algae, sluffing off nutrients in their waste, which causes more algae to grow, causing the lake to turn green instead remaining blue.

Asian clams are succumbing in large numbers due to rubber mats placed on the lake's sandy bottom. These are incredibly effective, Schladow said. In areas overtaken by destructive milfoil weeds, **herbicide usage** is under discussion and **ultraviolet light** is being tested as a means of eradication.

"The collaboration that exists between the science community and the various Tahoe agencies is probably at an all-time high. This is important at this point in time when we are entering a period when we can no longer rely on what has

worked in the past,” Schladow told *Lake Tahoe News*. “The past is in the past, and the future as far as climate, hydrology and ecology are concerned is far from understood. Scientists are helping to keep agencies informed, and at the same time the agencies are letting the science community know what their major questions are.”

A never-ending circle of destruction it seems, Schladow said, adding that Lake Baikal in Russia currently is facing its own algae invasion with huge amounts of the stuff on its shoreline. Baikal and Tahoe are like twin lakes in many ways.

“Suffice it to say, water temperatures are warming at the bottom of the lake, because of a lack of mixing,” he said.

On Tahoe’s shores, Schladow said tree mortality has doubled from 35,000 dead trees in the basin in 2015 to more than 72,000 in 2016. Drought and beetles are vying for first and second place as the leading causes for the die off.

In an effort to combat this situation, TERC and NASA are collaborating to measure plant stress from space at different times of the day, while helicopters and drones are surveying the entire shoreline to glean data.

There is some good news. While average water temperatures have continued to warm, in July 2016, they fell by 2.9 degrees due to increased winds and cooler than usual temperatures.

“The improvement in winter clarity was very encouraging of the agency efforts, and helps justify the expenditures that have been made to date,” he said.

In addition, the lake level rose by more than 20 inches, bringing it back above its natural rim and allowing it to flow into the Truckee River during the epic 2016-17 winter. And the Upper Truckee River floodplain is doing what it should be doing now by effectively accommodating the huge runoff from the recent blockbuster winter.

“We have come a long way in the last 15 years in instrumenting the lake. What this means is that we have made a lot of the investments needed to ensure that the right types of data are being collected,” Schladow told *LTN*. “These are critical to understanding how the lake is changing.”

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Sandra Taylor is now the third surgeon at Barton General Surgery.
 - South Shore resident Bruce Rettig won first place in the Pacific Northwest Writers Association’s 2017 Literary Contest for nonfiction/memoir. The story is about his time in the merchant marine working in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, for a tugboat and barge company.
 - Progress for Tahoe is having a meeting to discuss South Lake Tahoe’s sales tax/road measure on Aug. 16 from noon-1:30pm at the Boys & Girls Club on Lyons Avenue.
 - Check out this **video** of a Tahoe bear needing a little back scratch.
 - Viva L’Auto on Sept. 30 at 6pm benefits 3Strands Global Foundation. It includes cars provided by Niello Automotive, live band, food, drinks, live and silent auction. It will be at Palladio at Broadstone in Folsom. Cost is \$75. For details, call 916.996.8813.
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Sewer work to impact travel in Tahoe Keys

Expect delays in the Tahoe Keys from Aug. 1-4 as South Tahoe Public Utility District crews work on the sewer line.

This is in the same area where a sewer line broke earlier this year on Tahoe Keys Boulevard near Venice Drive.

Detours will be in place.

It might be easier to use 15th Street to access this South Lake Tahoe neighborhood.

Truckee timeshare operator sues 'exit' company

By Kathryn Reed

Welk Resorts, which operates One Village Place and Northstar Lodge in Truckee, this week filed a lawsuit against Reed Hein & Associates, a company that helps people get out of their time share commitment.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California against the company's subsidiary Timeshare Exit Team.

Court documents say, "Their (Timeshare Exit Team and the co-defendants) unscrupulous, callous and illegal schemes have caused severe consequences to unsuspecting consumers. Their schemes have caused financial and reputational damage to Welk,

which has enjoyed more than 50 years of providing high-quality vacation ownership opportunities and stays to millions of people through its resorts.”

Timeshare Exit Team started in 2012. According to its website, “Timeshare Exit Team has developed a unique strategy to help timeshare owners rid themselves of the burdens of their timeshare. We are so confident in our process that we offer our 100 percent money back guarantee. We will get you out of your timeshare, or we will give you a full refund of your fee.”

Welks Resorts is accusing Timeshare Exit Team of racketeering, intentional interference with contractual relations, violating the California unfair competition law, California Vacation Ownership and Time-Share Act, California False Advertising Law and the state Running and Capping Law.

Timeshare Exit Team is standing by its business practices.

“We would like to inform consumers that the meritless lawsuit and inaccurate accusations therein will not dissuade our team from continuing to advocate for consumers,” Brandon Reed, founder and CEO of Timeshare Exit Team, said in a statement provided to *Lake Tahoe News*. “I’m proud of the service we offer and of the company we have built. Timeshare Exit Team has built an unparalleled in-house team, leveraging effective outside resources as needed, to assess each customer’s unique situation and to provide them with qualified, thorough, and trusted management of their issues.”

Wozniak to give talk at Incline Village

Steve Wozniak, the tech titan who helped launch the PC revolution with the first Apple computer, will headline the Siebens-Binz Sierra Nevada College Forum on Sept. 23.

This interview-style discussion will take place at the college's Incline Village campus on the Patterson Lawn at 2pm.

Tickets are free and can be reserved in limited quantities starting Aug. 1.

For more information and to get a ticket, go **online**.

Stateline casinos help spur state to positive fiscal year

By Ken Ritter, AP

Casinos in Nevada won 2.9 percent more from gamblers in the fiscal year that ended in June, compared with the year before, the Nevada Gaming Control Board said Thursday.

For the 12 months from July 2016 to June 2017, so-called "casino win" in Nevada totaled more than \$11.4 billion, according to a monthly regulatory report. That was up from \$11.1 billion the previous year.

The biggest percentage increases for the fiscal year were in downtown Las Vegas, where casino gambling win was up nearly 11 percent, and at casinos in Stateline, up 7.4 percent.

Read the whole story

Workshop all about incorporating a business

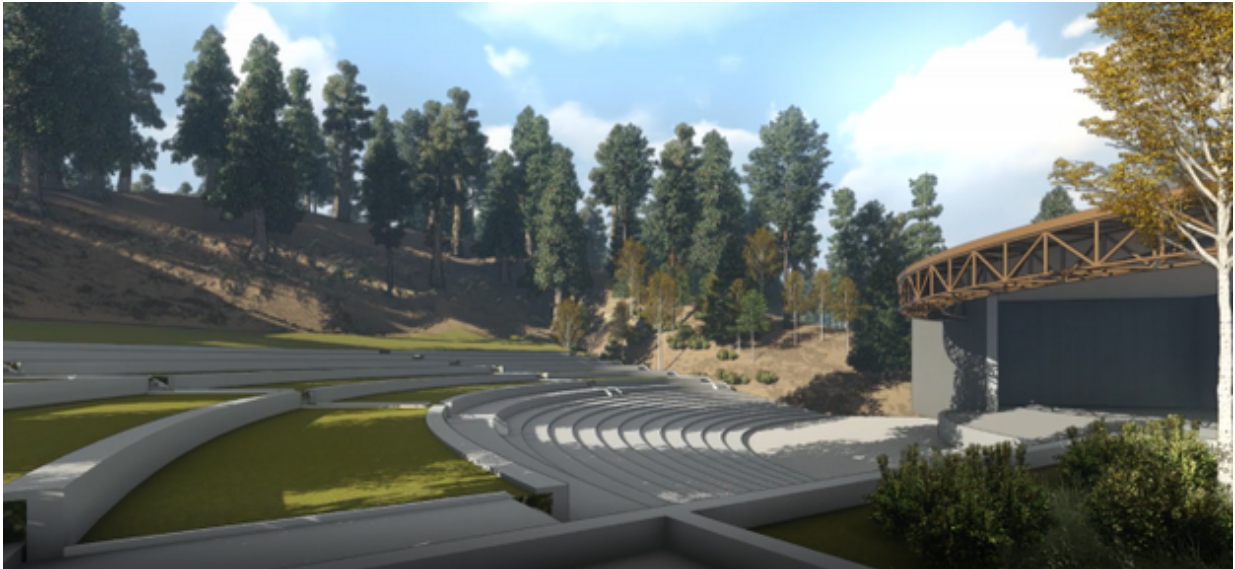
Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce is putting on a workshop for businesses thinking about incorporating.

Attendees will be told about the benefits of being an incorporated business and how incorporating can protect assets and take a business to the next level.

The workshop is Aug. 16 from noon-1:30pm at the chamber office in Stateline.

Cost is \$10 for members, \$20 for others. For more info, email brittani@tahoechamber.org.

Truckee performing arts venue makes progress



The Stages at Northstar is inching closer to reality.
Rendering/Provided

By Carole Jablon-Bernardi

When Abraham Lincoln ordered the completion of the Dome of the Capitol Building while the Civil War loomed, critics loudly protested. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in the middle of World War II, dedicated the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. John Kennedy asked for legislative support of the arts in 1962 while relaying both presidential acts mentioned above, adding, "The life of the arts, far from being an interruption or a distraction in the life of a nation, is closer to the center of a nation's purpose – and a test of a nation's civilization."

While Lake Tahoe cannot be categorized as a large city heavily populated by political critics or lobbyists, it seems to support a trend of community performing arts centers that continue to surface in mountain resort areas, and small towns throughout the country. This effort is now happening in North Lake Tahoe with The Stages at Northstar.

In 2015, the Tahoe Regional Arts Foundation (TRAF is now a 501(c)3) introduced a conceptual project for a multi-faceted indoor-outdoor performing arts center built on 17 acres of Northstar's Castle Peak area. The land, provided by Vail

Resorts under a 75-year sublease (no fee) plan, would make the facility a tenant of Northstar but managed by TRAF.

At that time, the plan called for an outdoor amphitheater (potentially 3,000-plus seats), two indoor theaters, and a main theater that would seat 500 at 33,000 square feet.

Fast forward to the most recent update on the project.

On July 24 TRAF signed a consultant agreement with USC's School of Dramatic Arts.

"USC's SDA will consult with us during the predevelopment and construction phases of the theaters. Post construction the Tahoe Regional Arts Foundation will work with the USC SDA on cooperative educational programming," TRAF's board Chairman Keith Vogt told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Vogt this month spoke to an interested and somewhat anxious community audience.

As with any conceptual project, the design has been tweaked and is still waiting for final approval by the board of directors. Securing funding has not changed greatly with a goal of \$50 million still the big target, and an endowment to help ensure its success. TRAF has secured its first seven figure grant donated as start-up funding. Down the road there will be "donor naming opportunities" for specific structures and areas of the center.

A feasibility study was completed in 2014 and was updated this year. Changes were due to the difference in the economy in the last three years, reflected in the contributions to the county from theater activities.

Traffic and noise impact studies are in the works.

Fiscal impact has remained the same, projected at \$4 million. Vogt assured the audience that numerous businesses in the North Lake Tahoe community should feel a positive impact from

the project's completion.

Once funding has been met it will take two building seasons to construct (possibly in stages), with the earliest completion being 2021.

"The basic issue for all the arts in the Tahoe region is a severe lack of space. We want to fill that void and provide an iconic theater space for our high school and community college students to learn how the theater works," Vogt said.

TRAF will ultimately manage and operate the center, with a starting staff of approximately five administrators.

Performing arts centers have the ability to become cornerstones of the creative life of their communities, but they cannot succeed without support from their communities. TRAF has "supporters" which include the Truckee Community Theater, Innerhythms, Reno Philharmonic, the Economic Development Agency of Western Nevada (EDAWN), North Lake Tahoe Resort Association and Placer County. At the Truckee gathering this month, numerous accolades were voiced on the positive aspect the project could have on the community. One attendee even shouted, "How soon can you build it?"

Improving the quality of life for the communities they serve is certainly a priority when soliciting support from residents, and business owners alike.

Bob Taylor, executive director of the long standing Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival at Sand Harbor, said, "The most important factor in the success of any artistic project (such as this) is tremendous wide-spread community support. All three of the theaters I work for, in Lake Tahoe, Boise, Idaho, and Cleveland, Ohio, began as community driven efforts ... and they are all thriving, vital organizations 45, 40 and 56 years, respectively, thanks to those visionary leaders."

In March, President Trump, in his first federal budget, took a

different approach than his predecessors. He proposed eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Humanities. But many in Tahoe-Truckee are no longer taking their lead from Washington.

While it's hard to argue against the arts as a whole, like all development in the greater Lake Tahoe area it needs to be scrutinized. How will this affect traffic in Truckee as well as the Lake Tahoe Basin? What about the height of the structure. And noise? While the project is outside the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's jurisdiction, the impacts will be felt in the basin. Some would like the Governing Board to at least be given a briefing on the project.