

Blood drive in South Lake Tahoe

BloodSource is putting on a blood drive July 28 in South Lake Tahoe.

The drive is sponsored by the Barton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Walk-ins are welcome.

Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, be at least 16 years old (16 and 17 year olds will need a signed parental consent form) and be generally healthy. There is no upper age limit for blood donations. Donors must bring a photo ID and should drink plenty of fluids before donating.

The drive will be at the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Center from noon-5pm.

For more information, call 916.453.3039.

More talk, no action on VHRs in S. Lake Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

Because the rules on the books have never been fully enforced, it's impossible to know if they are even effective. So it goes with vacation home rentals in South Lake Tahoe.

Another three-hour discussion about the issue took place at the July 11 City Council meeting. At the end of the day the electeds decided to talk some more.

The VHR subcommittee of the mayor and mayor pro tem is being resurrected. They will meet with stakeholders and bring back ideas to the full council.

Items to be considered include:

- Limiting the number of VHRs. If this is agreed to, then they must create the parameters for doing so.
- How many citations a rental may be served before it threatens the owner's right to have a permit.
- Whether owners should be cited when renters are the problem.
- Whether an owner occupied rental should come under the same VHR regulations; and whether that is even legal.
- Possibly mandating renters have to get the key from someone in person.
- Having uniform language for regulations that all guests in the city sign.

The workshop came on the heels of the \$77,000 socio-economic study that was released this spring. Hardly anyone brought up that document.

What people care about is what's happening in their neighborhoods, what the city might do to curtail VHRs, and the impacts – good and bad – those decisions would have.

City staff is backing the idea of limiting the number of VHRs. This decision will ultimately be up to the council. There is not consensus for the status quo (unlimited VHRs anywhere) or a limit of some kind.

What wasn't explained is how a cap would solve any of the problems. Noise, parking and trash remain the top three complaints.

Twenty-six members of the public spoke at Tuesday's meeting. Beliefs and feelings were all over the board – from wanting to ban VHRs from residential areas, to keeping things as they are. One person broached the idea of taking the issue to the voters.

Enforcement was the common theme throughout the afternoon.

It's not like this should be news to anyone who has been following the topic. Enforcement, or lack thereof, has been the overriding issue for years.

Those in the industry believe the rules are OK as they are written today. They, too, want guests to obey the law and for officers to hold people accountable. This, ideally, would show those being bothered by short-term renters that someone cares and is doing something about it. It would perhaps mean less of a black-eye for an industry that seems to have a tarnished image.

Since June 30 the city has been posting citations on its **website**. As of Monday morning there were 74 incidents.

Police Chief Brian Uhler said he wants to do away with warnings and go straight to citations.

About 14 percent of South Lake Tahoe homeowners have a VHR permit.

The economic impact of VHRs is undeniable, and was driven home in the study. This is a big business. The city relies on the transient occupancy tax, homeowners are making bank, the people in the industry (rental companies, maids, handymen and the like) rely on them for paychecks, and then there are all the companies that benefit from these people spending money at their establishments.

Opinion: Sale of \$31M Tahoe estate should disturb Calif. politicians

By Dan Walters, CALMatters

The Wall Street Journal often features stories about multimillion-dollar homes and estates as they change ownership.

One recent article should disturb California politicians, particularly Gov. Jerry Brown and legislators who recently enacted a new state budget. Here's why.



Dan Walters

About 70 percent of the revenue for the \$125 billion “general fund” portion of the budget – the part that supports schools, colleges, prisons and health and welfare programs – comes from the state’s personal income taxes. And half of those income taxes are paid by the top 1 percent of taxpayers.

The bite on the wealthy has been increasing, thanks to an economic expansion that has put more money in their bank accounts, to the progressive nature of the income tax system and, finally, to sharp increases in their marginal tax rates

through two voter-approved ballot measures.

There's been much speculation over whether those highest-in-the-nation tax rates would encourage the very wealthy to flee California and establish residences in low- or no-income-tax states such as neighboring Nevada.

There have been some anecdotal reports of such moves, which Nevada officials have indirectly encouraged by vigorously defending expatriates from California's efforts to tax their incomes. But there's been, as far as one can tell, no mass exodus.

Nevertheless, it was one thing to have high marginal tax rates imposed temporarily, as a 2012 ballot measure sponsored by Brown did. It's another thing to make those rates at least semi-permanent, as did a 2016 ballot measure backed by public-employee unions and others with stakes in the state budget.

That brings us back to that brief Wall Street Journal article about the \$31.1 million sale of a Lake Tahoe estate once owned by casino tycoon Steve Wynn to Michael and Nora Lacey. He's a pathologist and she founded a Silicon Valley bio-tech company that she sold in 2014 for \$170 million.

Just two years ago, the Laceys bought a 30,000-square-foot Tudor mansion in Los Altos Hills, named "Morgan" for a previous owner, but it will no longer be their official residence. "The Wynn estate is our permanent home and our main home and the Morgan estate is a beautiful place when we want to get away," Mrs. Lacey told the Journal.

By joining other wealthy residents of Incline Village on the Nevada side of the lake, the Laceys will be able to shield at least some of their obviously high income, particularly investment earnings, from California taxes.

Just a few days before the article appeared, the Tax Foundation, a Washington, D.C., think tank, issued a bulletin

about the fat contract that quarterback Derek Carr signed with the Las Vegas-bound Oakland Raiders. The contract is “back-loaded,” meaning most of the money will be paid after the team relocates, and the foundation calculated that Carr would save \$3.2 million a year by plying his trade in Nevada.

Finally – and perhaps most ominously for California politicians – President Donald Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are weighing whether to eliminate the federal income tax deduction for state taxes.

Without deductibility, the bite on the wealthy in California and other high-tax states – all of them true blue in their political leanings – would increase sharply.

It would create still another financial reason for them to emulate the Laceys, particularly if they also fear that state taxes will rise again to finance the universal health coverage that many Democratic politicians advocate, including the party’s front-runner for governor, Gavin Newsom.

We live in interesting times.

Interstate 80 open as fire burns nearby



The Farad Fire burns near Verdi.
Photo/Liberty Utilities

Updated 9:39pm

The fire near the California-Nevada state line has burned 670 acres and is 20 percent contained.

Liberty Utilities installed an emergency generator Tuesday night. It was supplying temporary power to the 40 Floriston customers who have been without power.

Eight power poles have burned in the fire.

The fire is burning on the west side of Interstate 80 about 12 miles from Truckee.

The interstate is open.

The fire started July 10 at 1pm.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

2 hurt in chopper crash near Donner Summit



A helicopter is not longer able to fly after crashing July 11. Photo/CHP

Two people sustained minor injuries Tuesday when the helicopter they were in crashed on Donner Summit.

Six people were in the chopper that was operated by PG&E. According to the FAA, the aircraft hit a tree while trying to land near Kidd Lake along Interstate 80 in Kingvale on July 11.

The team was inspecting its hydroelectric facilities.

The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

State of the lake talk set for July 27

The annual state of the lake address will be given by Geoff Schladow on July 27.

Schladow runs the Tahoe Environmental Research Center in Incline Village.

The presentation will focus on the most important factors that affected the health of Lake Tahoe last year.

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 on the campus of Sierra Nevada College.

Seating is open at 5:30pm to guests who have preregistered, open seating starts at 5:50pm. A \$5 suggested donation will be collected at the door.

Bike share company opening in S. Lake Tahoe

By Kathryn Reed

Starting Saturday expect to see a couple hundred bright green and yellow bikes throughout South Lake Tahoe.

LimeBike ride share is launching in the city this weekend.

The biggest difference with this company compared to other ride share businesses is that there is no set docking station. On the one hand, that means riders can leave the bike in pretty much any public area – and where private businesses say it's OK. On the other hand, it could be a bit of a scavenger hunt to find a bike.

This business model is more in line with the growing shared economy which comes with as few rules and regulations as possible, as well as a great deal of flexibility.

LimeBike's app shows where the nearest bike is located and gives directions to get to the bike.



A bicycle ride share firm is opening in South Lake Tahoe on July 15. Photo/LTN

"Every bike has a GPS so we would know if it's in someone's garage," Andrew Savage with LimeBike said.

Savage was at the July 11 South Lake Tahoe City Council

meeting to explain the program. It is coming to the area with the help of the League to Save Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. This is a trial period that will run through October.

The app that is available on Apple and Android products is how people will find a bike and pay for the rental. People just need to deposit \$5 to get started. The cost is \$1 for every 30 minutes.

LimeBike is based in San Mateo and was launched in April. The start-up raised \$12 million through venture capitalists.

The bikes have a kickstand so they don't have to be left in a rack. The foam core tires are designed to not deflate. A front basket will allow people to carry items.

Councilman Jason Collin was enthusiastic about the program, sharing how he has used similar programs in Europe. He asked about the ability to reserve a bike or be able to keep it if a person is running into a business just for a quick errand.

The answer is no – at least for now.

Because the company is so new they know tweaks to the system are probably going to need to happen.

Savage also said if more bikes are needed that won't be a problem.

Collecting ZIP code information from users will allow LimeBike to provide the city if it's locals or visitors using the bikes.

Clinton in town during celebrity golf tournament



Expensive jets line the tarmac at Lake Tahoe Airport as players arrive for the ACC. Photo/LTN

While former President Bill Clinton flew into Lake Tahoe Airport on Tuesday and is expected to be here the week, he will not actually be playing in the American Century Championship.

Clinton is known for being more of a hacker on the course.

The actual tournament at Edgewood Tahoe is Friday-Sunday.

Tuesday was a practice round and the Tahoe South celebrity-am, Wednesday is another practice round and the Harrah's celebrity-am, with Thursday being the American Century celebrity-am. It's possible Clinton could be participating in one of the celebrity-am events or just practice with the other players.

The additional security for this year's tournament is not because of Clinton.

"Restrictions are actually standard at other tournaments. ACC is just responding to current security precautions," Carol

Chaplin, executive director of Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The Father Grace Invitational Golf Tournament benefiting religious education at St. Theresa Church in South Lake Tahoe will be Aug. 31, with a shotgun start at 1:30pm. For more info, email danettewinslow@gmail.com.
 - There will be a free film screening of “Smog of the Sea” on July 27 at 9pm at Himmel Haus in South Lake Tahoe.
 - Kit Knight will be the artist in residence at the Viking Gallery at Valhalla from July 14-23, 11am-4:30pm. There will be a reception July 18 from 4:30-6pm.
 - The Richard March Band will be performing at the lawn at Valhalla on July 19 at 5:30pm. Donation of \$10-\$20 suggested.
 - Through the Roots and guests Thrive! plus Sun Dried Vibes and disc jockeys Ramone & Clay (Reggae Ambassadors) will be at Blu Nightclub in Stateline on July 22. Doors open at 9pm. Go **online** for tickets.
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USFS to use herbicides on plants in basin

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit will continue a project to eradicate, control, and contain known infestations of invasive plants in the Lake Tahoe Basin using chemical treatment.

Work will take place at approximately 90 infestation sites (18.25 acres) beginning in mid-July and continuing through September.

There are 493 known invasive plant infestation sites located on National Forest System lands managed by the LTBMU. Invasive plants reproduce and spread rapidly, displacing native plant species' richness and diversity. Invasive plants can reduce the range and quality of fish and wildlife habitat, increase soil erosion and stream sedimentation, as well as, impair recreational quality.

LTBMU is managing as many as 723 separate invasive plant populations with 30 percent of those planned for treatment this year. While some invasive species like common St. John's wort are managed by manually uprooting them, 40 percent of the 2017 priority populations will be treated chemically.

Current project areas include 64 Acres parking lot, Angora Fire and Angora Creek restoration areas, Lam Watah Trail, Luther Pass Campground, Heavenly Creek Meadow, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Meyers Landfill, the Lower Truckee River corridor, Spooner Summit Fire Station, Genoa Ridge, Tallac Historic Site and Taylor Creek.

In addition, weed infestations on Forest Service urban lots will be treated in the following Lake Tahoe Basin neighborhoods: Bijou, Kingsbury Grade, North Upper Truckee, Tahoe Paradise, South Upper Truckee, Sierra Tract, Ski Run,

Ward Creek and Zephyr Cove.

Chemically targeted invasive plant species include Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*), perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*), Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica* var *dalmatica*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), hoary cresses (*Lepidium appelianum* & *L. draba*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*).

Treatments will include the use of three herbicides: Rodeo, Milestone, and Telar. Applicators will apply the product with backpack sprayers and other handheld tools.

Caution signs will be posted in treatment areas and will remain for at least 48 hours after treatment.