

Calif. implementing boating safety permit

By Carlos Correa, CBS-13

California is working to make the waterways around the region a lot of safer by making sure anyone who operates a boat is well educated on how to properly run one.

This time next year, people will be required to carry a boater education card.

The education card is like a permit you can carry in your wallet or place on your boat. It proves you're able to operate it and know exactly what to do in an emergency.

In order to keep the water ways safe, starting Jan. 1, 2018, anyone under the age of 20 will be required to get a California boater card, which proves a person, has successfully taken and passed a state-approved boater safety education exam.

Read the whole story

Voices: STMS students dish food at B&B

To the community,

In addition to leadership events, club meetings, and recreation trips, the Club Live program at the South Tahoe Middle School promotes service to others and on May 22, Club

Live sponsored a Bread & Broth Adopt A Day of Nourishment.

At the Monday meal program leaders Larry and Paula Lambdin and club members Mylee Blanchard, Destiny Hursh and Elisa Roberts provided incredible service to the guests who came to Grace Hall for a tasty and filling evening meal.

Arriving at 3pm, the Club Live sponsor crew put on B&B aprons and set to work bagging food for the giveaway bags and helping the B&B volunteers with whatever was needed to make the dinner service go smoothly. While taking a break, Blanchard and Roberts shared their thoughts about volunteering at a B&B dinner. They both “liked the experience and helping all the people in need.” Roberts also thought that “food was good!”

By helping feed the evening’s 118 dinner guests and making them feel welcome and valued, these young Club Live members made a difference in many folk’s lives and probably their own. Bread & Broth would like to thank Club Live for the valuable service they are providing for the youth in our community and for providing an outstanding sponsor crew at their sponsorship dinner.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Parents-players at odds with STHS soccer coach

By Kathryn Reed

South Tahoe High School girls’ soccer coach was exonerated after the school district conducted an investigation, but many who filed the complaints were never interviewed.

The school district said it found nothing to keep Mark Salmon from returning to the sidelines.



Mark Salmon

It was a five-week investigation that recently culminated. The exact date was not disclosed, but LTUSD officials said the parents are still within the 30-day period in which they could appeal the decision to the superintendent. After that an appeal could be made to the school board.

Superintendent Jim Tarwater did not return repeated phone calls. Pat Hartnett, STHS athletic director, deferred comment to the district office.

Because this is a personnel issue the findings are not being released nor is the letter that was reportedly sent to the parents.

Lake Tahoe News this week met with several parents and players who don't want Salmon to return as the varsity coach. One of the nine at this meeting was talked to by the district; this was a student-athlete. No one in this group had been notified the investigation was over, what the conclusions were, nor had they received the letter the district said was sent to them.

A group of parents, and possibly players, plans to attend the June 13 Lake Tahoe Unified School District board meeting to air their grievances in public and make the elected officials aware of their concerns. For now, their names are not being used, which is to protect the minors.

These girls said they felt bullied and are fearful of retaliation from Salmon. They said he was the ring leader in getting players to not like each other. Some of the girls who had aspirations of playing collegiate soccer don't even want to keep playing high school or club ball if Salmon is involved.

Salmon told *LTN* if the issue doesn't go away he is ready to file a slander lawsuit. One of the parents is ready to file his own lawsuit.

The investigation, Salmon said, proves he has done nothing wrong. He wants to move on.

The parents don't understand how it's over when they were not questioned.

Barbara Bannar, LTUSD board president, said she had heard about the allegations against Salmon out in the community, but the board has not discussed the situation.

"This is something we have to let Bob (Grant) deal with and then as a board make sure it's done. If the parents were not notified, that has to be rectified," Bannar told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The student-athletes have to sign a contract saying they will maintain a certain grade point average and won't drink or use any other drugs during the entire school year. Coaches don't sign a conduct contract, however, they are not supposed to drink or do any drugs around the students. Plus, it's illegal to do so on campus.

The allegations are that those rules have not always been followed, and that the coach has supplied alcohol and told players to lie about it.

Salmon had disparaging, angry comments about who he believes are his accusers.

The high school parents and students accused Salmon and the school as a whole of allowing ineligible players to participate in games based on grades. They contend this goes on for athletes in other sports as well.

Bob Grant, who handles these types of complaints for LTUSD, acknowledged multiple complaints had been filed against Salmon. He could not discuss the details.

When asked if he had seen the animated gif Salmon sent in a group text to his players that says, "Shoot yourself in the head with a larger caliber bullet – cheers," Grant would not comment.

Salmon told *Lake Tahoe News* the image was taken out of context on a long thread of texts, and that it was meant as a joke that he should shoot himself in the head, not a player, and never literally.

Salmon said since that came to light his policy is to only communicate soccer related information to students via text.

Above that message was the comment from Salmon to his players that said, "Hey retards... Play sea battle on your own damn thread."

Salmon has been the varsity coach for the last two seasons, and was the JV coach two years before that. While he has not signed a contract to coach the 2017 season, the district is assuming he will do so. Coaching contracts in LTUSD are usually on a year-to-year basis.

While it is preferred to have a teacher be a coach because of the familiarity with the students and being more of a presence, that often isn't the case at STHS.

Salmon also knows many of the high school players through the South Tahoe Futbol Club, which he has been part of for nearly a decade. This club sports program brings the annual Cufa

soccer tournament to the South Shore.

Nick Arbelaez, head of coaching for the club organization, said no complaints have been filed against Salmon.

“It’s been the reverse. We’ve had parents thanking us for Mark being their coach and for everything he has done,” Arbelaez told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The NIAA, the governing body of high school athletics in Nevada and to which STHS belongs, doesn’t get involved in this level of complaint. Bart Thompson, NIAA executive director, told *Lake Tahoe News* that sportsmanship and recruiting are the types of issues they tackle with coaches.

Opinion: What’s the solution to unaffordable housing?

By Edward Joseph Pierini Jr., Sacramento Bee

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development classifies a Sacramento family of four with annual earnings of \$59,350 as low income; for a single person, it’s \$41,550. HUD’s low-income classification sounds about right because, with this income, many can’t afford Sacramento County’s median home sales price of \$312,000 or an average of \$1,450 per month to rent a two-bedroom dwelling.

Fortunately, we have taxpayer-financed and government-subsidized affordable housing programs. What are some of these programs’ recent accomplishments?

A 2017 Cabinet Exit Memo to the American People by the

outgoing HUD secretary highlighted achievements during former President Barack Obama's administration, including many "pat on the back" laudatory statements. Statistical information about recent affordable housing accomplishments was difficult to find. Should we expect more from a government agency with a modest \$49.3 billion annual budget?

Read the whole story

Feds: Russian gangs hacked Nev. slot machines

By Benjamin Weiser, New York Times

NEW YORK — There were the usual accouterments of an organized crime prosecution: an illegal poker house and cases of stolen cigarettes, authorities said.

But there was also a scheme to defraud casinos with a hacking device that predicted the behavior of particular models of electronic slot machines. And a plot for a woman to seduce men, drug them with chloroform and then rob them.

There was even a large shipment of stolen sweets: 10,000 pounds of chocolate confections that two defendants were overheard discussing on a court-ordered wiretap in March, according to a federal indictment.

In all, charges were unsealed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan on Wednesday against 31 people. Many of them, according to the indictment, were based in New York City but others operated in Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and abroad. They were mostly from the former Soviet Union, and

many had strong ties to Georgia, Ukraine and Russia.

Read the whole story

Hwy. 50 closed in Calif. because of slide



First the westbound lane was closed; then the hillside kept coming down.
Photo/Caltrans

A mudslide has closed a section of Highway 50 between Tahoe and Placerville.

The slide at first had traffic down to one lane on June 8, but the debris kept coming. Caltrans said at 5pm that they will “re-evaluate opening in 24 hours.”

The slide is at Alder Creek. According to the California Highway Patrol, the highway will be closed at Meyers on the east and at Ice House Road on the west.

“More than 50 truckloads of new debris fell onto the westbound lane of Highway 50 this morning at Alder Creek,” CHP said.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- South Lake Tahoe's vacation home rental workshop is now at 8am on June 13.
 - Tahoe Regional Young Professionals is having a mixer June 14 from 6-9pm at South Lake Brewing Company in South Lake Tahoe. June 20 meet at Caliente in Kings Beach from 5:30-8:30pm. No cost for members, \$10 for others. This includes one free drink and appetizers.
 - Kristin York, vice president business innovation for the Sierra Small Business Development Center, will give a presentation June 15, 8-10am about how entrepreneurs can raise money to start or expand a business. It will be at the Truckee airport. For more details, go **online**.
 - The Lake Tahoe Water Trail website (<http://laketahoewatertrail.org/>) includes paddle routes to match ability levels, and details about parking and public beach access to nearby hiking trails, paddle shops, lakeside bistros, historic sites, campgrounds and shoreline lodging.
 - For the first time the Nevada Highway Patrol has started training all cadets to be child passenger safety technicians.
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NDOT working to clear boulders from Hwy. 50

NDOT started work this week to reinforce the slope along Highway 50 at Logan Shoals.

During the winter numerous boulders roughly the size of large passenger vehicles fell onto eastbound travel lanes near Logan Creek Drive north of Cave Rock. No vehicles have been involved in the slides, and no injuries reported.

Since then, travel lanes have been reduced to one lane in each direction, with both directions of traffic shifted to westbound lanes away from the rock fall area.

Nevada Department of Transportation officials will enhance and reinforce the slope, as well as construct a roadside wall to help prevent future erosion. Boulders and debris will first be cleaned from the bottom of the slope. Then, anchor bars drilled into the slope will secure heavy-duty mesh that will be covered with more than 16 inches of sprayable "shotcrete" concrete to create what is called a soil nail wall. The concrete will be hand-sculpted to match colors and textures of nearby natural roadside slopes. The wall will essentially stabilize the approximately 60-foot high slope by encasing it in concrete. Roadway surface and curbing damaged by the boulders will also be repaired.

Highway 50 will continue to be reduced to one lane in each direction in the Logan Creek Drive area during construction. Brief travel delays may temporarily take place in future months if one-way traffic with pilot cars is needed.

The project will cost approximately \$5 million. Road and Highway Builders is the contractor.

Expert: Casino industry must innovate

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The casino industry may find its business model vaporized like travel agencies, DVD stores and land lines unless leaders transform themselves with innovation, a speaker at a one-day innovation conference in Las Vegas said.

Southern California-based Rob Tercek, founder and president of General Creativity Consulting and the author of "Vaporized: Solid Strategies for Success in a Dematerialized World," told gaming industry professionals that rapid changes in mobile social gaming and the casino industry's inability to keep up will drive customers away with every innovative breakthrough.

Tercek was the closing keynote speaker at Innovation Day, sponsored by the American Gaming Association and technology consultant PwC, at Encore on Tuesday.

Read the whole story

STHS recognizes students at annual banquet

At the annual South Tahoe High School awards banquet \$475,000 in scholarships was bestowed upon students.

The event recognized 118 students.

It was noted that 24 of 26 athletic teams competed in regional and/or state championships.

On several occasions during the school year, STHS recognized individual students for perfect attendance over a certain period of time. In total, 187 students were recognized.

Assistant Principal Justin Zunino said the more notable accomplishments for 2016-17 were the implementation of two-way bilingual immersion courses, continued implementation of Common Core state standards in mathematics and English, and additional career technical education courses including fitness hospitality and tourism.