

Opinion: Reality begins to penetrate CalPERS

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

It's very rare, but always welcome, when reality intrudes on political decision making.



Dan Walters

Thus, it's noteworthy that overseers of the nation's largest pension trust fund, the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), last month reduced – albeit reluctantly – its projection of future earnings by a half-percentage point.

With earnings on investments the last two years barely exceeding zero, CalPERS has been compelled to sell assets to make its pension payments, which far outstrip contributions from state and local governments and their employees.

[Read the whole story](#)

Bookstores still relevant –

become a destination

By Ann Patchett, New York Times

The pilgrims have been coming to Nashville for as long as the Grand Ole Opry has been on the radio. They come for Fan Fair and Taylor Swift concerts or just to walk down Lower Broad in cowboy boots. Parents visit their children in college. Conventioneers deplane by the thousands. Nashville is a hip city now, with a food scene, an art scene and two poorly performing professional sports teams.

With all the reasons to travel to Nashville, one might be surprised to learn that some people come just to see a small independent bookstore. It's true. The Book Faithful journey to Music City because they still like their novels printed on paper. They come because they've heard about the shop dogs, or because someone told them years ago that bookstores were moving onto the endangered species list and they wanted to see one that was thriving in its natural habitat: in a strip mall, behind Fox's Donut Den, beside Sherwin-Williams Paint Store. Some come in hopes of seeing a favorite author read, or catching a glimpse of the author who co-owns the store.

That would be me.

Karen Hayes and I opened Parnassus Books in November 2011. This summer, when Pickles and Ice Cream Maternity went out of business, we took down the adjoining wall and doubled our space. Business is good, which, by bookstore standards, means we spring for employee health insurance and pay the rent.

Karen and I are vocal supporters of the Shop Local movement, while at the same time benefiting from the Destination Bookstore travelers.

Read the whole story

Warming vehicle in cold harms engine

By Jay Bennett, Popular Mechanics

In the thick of winter, the common wisdom is that when you are gearing up to take your truck out in the cold and snow, you should step outside, start up your engine, and let it idle to warm up. But contrary to popular belief, this does not prolong the life of your engine; in fact, it decreases it by stripping oil away from the engine's cylinders and pistons.

In a nutshell, an internal combustion engine works by using pistons to compress a mixture of air and vaporized fuel within a cylinder. The compressed mixture is then ignited to create a combustion event—a little controlled explosion that powers the engine.

When your engine is cold, the gasoline is less likely to evaporate and create the correct ratio of air and vaporized fuel for combustion. Engines with electronic fuel injection have sensors that compensate for the cold by pumping more gasoline into the mixture. The engine continues to run rich in this way until it heats up to about 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Read the whole story

Bill Craven – 1928-2016

By Kathryn Reed

A quiet man who never wanted much attention, but whose family has left a rich history at Fallen Leaf Lake has died.

Bill Craven died Dec. 28, 2016. He was 88.



Bill Craven's impact on Fallen Leaf Lake will be long-lasting. Photo/LTN file

His grandfather, William W. Price, started Camp Agassiz for boys in 1895, which led to the resort at Fallen Leaf Lake. It started as a tent camp. Price and his wife, Bertha, had Fallen Leaf Lodge up and running in 1909. They also operated the Housekeeping Camp.

To start with there was no indoor refrigeration; the ice house was located near what is now Stanford Sierra Camp. Supplies were bought at the Celio's in Meyers because there was no commercial development at the Y in South Lake Tahoe then.

Born in 1928, Mr. Craven, spent his childhood summers at the lodge. In those days it was possible to take the train from San Francisco to the Tahoe Tavern and the S.S. Tahoe steamer to Camp Richardson. Most of the time, though, the trip was made by car.

In the mid-1940s, Mr. Craven met his future wife, Barbara Granger, at Fallen Leaf. Their families had neighboring cabins. She was 18 and he was 16. The couple managed the lodge from 1972 to 1985. They were among a handful of people who lived at Fallen Leaf Lake year round. Mrs. Craven continues to live there.

Mr. Craven's mother, Harriet Price Craven, and her sister Francis Price Street ran the lodge before he took it over.

The 20-acre lodge site was sold to the Stanford Alumni Association in 1951, which was appropriate since his grandfather graduated from Stanford. That is where Stanford Sierra Camp now exists. The families operated the adjacent 78-acre parcel as a camp and cabin rentals until the 1980s.

In the forward for Janet Beales Kaidantzis' book "Fallen Leaf: A Lake and its People 1850-1950" Mr. Craven wrote, "Fallen Leaf Lake's happiest years occurred during the one-hundred-year period of this book. For most of that time, the Lake was unknown and sparsely populated. It took great effort to get here; those who made the trip were hardy types who appreciated nature and simple living."

Mr. Craven attended UNR, where he graduated in 1951 with a degree in mining engineering. He worked as a mining engineer in Ione until he took over the lodge.

Mr. Craven served as the president of the Lake Tahoe Historical Society. His mother had been a founding member of the organization.

In October 2010 he gave a talk at the South Lake Tahoe Library that was videotaped. Per his instructions, the Historical Society could not release copies of it until after his death. Mostly he talks about others and not his contributions to the South Shore.

He got his driver's license when he was 13. During World War

II he drove a truck for Sierra Tahoe Market which was dealing in the black market for meat.

At the talk he admitted that when gaming came to the Stateline as a 15-year-old he was playing penny slots.

Mr. Craven was saddened to see regulations put in place that essentially curtailed the building of old-style Tahoe cabins, but instead favored McMansions.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son and daughter; and several grandchildren.

Per his request there were no services. Donations may be made to the UNR Foundation, Mackay School of Mining, PO Box 162, Reno, NV 89557.

No word on when Comet chair will spin at Heavenly

There is no estimated time when the Comet chairlift at Heavenly Mountain Resort will be back in operation.

It has been out of service since New Year's Day morning. Everyone on the lift had to evacuated.

"The Comet chairlift is not operating due to a mechanical issue and an inspection is currently under way. The inspection is focusing on the gear box, but Heavenly Mountain Resort will complete a thorough review of all components to ensure safe operation of the lift," Jonathan Cook-Fisher with the U.S. Forest Service told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The ski resort operates mostly on USFS land, which is why the

feds are involved. Cook-Fisher is the agency's permit administrator for the resort.

The Comet chair is on the Nevada side. It is one of the resort's older chairlifts.

Coop Cooper with Heavenly chose not to comment for this story.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

South Shore bike committee seeks members

The South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority is seeking applicants to the Bicycle Advisory Committee as required by Measure R.

Four of the seven positions are open. Terms are for two years.

Committee meetings are usually the first Wednesday of each month from 9-11am.

The deadline to apply is Jan. 20 at 5pm. Call 530.542.6003 or email eapalazzo@cityofslt.us for an application.

Appointments will be made at the Jan. 27, 2pm JPA board meeting at Lake Tahoe Airport.

Storm starting to impact areas of basin



Water accumulating on Texas Street in South Lake Tahoe on Jan. 7. Photo/Susan Wood

Updated at 7:01pm:

By Kathryn Reed

An avalanche threat has been issued for parts of Incline Village.

“There are indications that an avalanche may occur in the Third Creek drainage and in the avalanche path adjacent to Third Creek to the south. Flowing debris from this anticipated avalanche(s) are expected to remain confined to the gullies and not affect homes or streets. However, the air blast – a

cushion of air pushed ahead of the debris flow – from such an event could rattle windows and affect pedestrians and vehicles in the immediate areas of the avalanche paths,” Tia Rancort with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District said in a statement on Jan. 7.



Trout Creek in South Lake Tahoe from Highway 50 on the afternoon of Jan. 7.
Photo/Susan Wood

Residents on Apollo Way, Jennifer Street, Lunar Court and the Mercury Court neighborhood areas have been notified.

Liberty Utilities has called in additional line crews to deal with likely outages. The power company is asking customers to only contact them in the event of an emergency.

Water is ponding in places in the basin. Highway 89 in Meyers has some flooding, including at the bridge at Portal. Reports are that it is not draining and has more than a foot of water

on it.

Linda Witters lived through the floods of 1997.

“Our Spring Creek became a torrent of water 100-feet wide and split its banks and went through three garages on the way to the river,” Witters told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Water will take the path of least resistance every time. The streets will be rivers and driveways will allow the water to go right through garages, houses, etc. Conditions beings as they are with the density of the snow, I expect this flooding to be worse if we get the predicted amounts of rain falling on snow.”

South Lake Tahoe temporarily ran out of sand at the Rufus Allen Boulevard site. Truckee’s supplies are running low after approximately 6,000 bags were distributed.

The National Weather Service in Reno says, “Widespread moderate to major flooding is imminent and very rapid rises on all waterways will begin this evening through Monday.”

The atmospheric river is still expected to bring rain to the 9,000-foot level, with 6 to 12 inches of rain in the basin between now and Monday morning.

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners have declared a state of emergency in preparation for the significant flooding event forecast for this weekend.

Alpine Meadows will be closed Jan. 8 and Squaw Valley will have limited terrain offerings. Tahoe Cross Country in Tahoe City will also be closed Sunday.

Not everyone wants national monuments in Nev.

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

With some rural Nevadans still seething over President Obama's designation of two national monuments two Republican lawmakers want to restrict the ability of future presidents to create more in the Silver State.

On Wednesday Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., and Rep. Mark Amodei, R-Nev., announced legislation that would make Nevada off-limits to new monuments that don't have approval from Congress.

The announcement comes in the wake of decisions by Obama to follow the advice of former Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., to designate the Basin and Range and Gold Butte monuments in southern Nevada.

[Read the whole story](#)

Incline Village bike park gains momentum

Incline Village General Improvement District is contemplating building a bike park between the recreation center and Incline Way on about 1½ acres.

IVGID and the nonprofit Incline Bike Project are working together on the proposal. The memorandum of understanding will help IBP beef up its fundraising.

The board this year is expected to move forward with the project.

A bike park in Incline has been discussed in earnest since 2014 when residents formed IBP. The IVGID board has been supportive since then; giving \$20,000 in 2015 for planning and \$50,000 last spring for construction.

This park would be separate from what is being talked about in the ski resort's master plan.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Chamber mixer a benefit for Bread & Broth

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce's annual Connect for a Cause Charity Mixer is Jan. 12 from 5:30-8:30pm.

This event will include drinks, appetizers, a photo booth, and raffle prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will be donated to Bread & Broth.

Guests are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for Bread & Broth. Those who do so will then be entered to win the door prize.

The fundraiser is at Riva Grill in South Lake Tahoe. Cost is \$10 for children, \$20 for chamber members and \$30 for others.