

3 fires in South Lake Tahoe in 2 nights

If it's true things go in threes, then the workload for South Tahoe firefighters should diminish for a while.

Crews on Tuesday night quickly knocked down a fire on Markoffer Way. One person was displaced because of the amount of damage to the duplex.

The cause of the Jan. 3 fire is being blamed on the wiring to a heater. Officials told *Lake Tahoe News* it appears a nail punctured the sheathing of the wires. This is something that could have occurred years ago.

The first fire of the new year was at **TJ Maxx on Jan. 2.**

Shortly after that fire crews were at Paradise Avenue to fight a blaze that started in an outside water heater closet. Fourteen people from Argentina were renting the house and had to be assisted by Red Cross because the structure was not longer habitable.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Letter: Traffic chaos must be addressed

To the community,

We live on Clear View Drive near Sawmill Pond. We've lived

here for 40 years and have never seen a traffic jam like the one that occurred Jan. 2. GPS has led visitors to scramble onto any road that heads in the direction of Highway 50. Dave tried to go into town yesterday, got as far as Sawmill and realized that he could get to town, but wouldn't be able to get back home in any reasonable fashion. It took him 45 minutes to get from Sawmill back to Clear View – about one-half mile. He actually wound up driving in reverse in the eastbound lane from Tahoe Mountain to our street.

View Circle, which is frequently used as a short cut, was at a standstill causing folks to start streaming down Clear View only to meet the standstill on View. This after careening to a stop for the sharp right turn at the bottom of our street. It was a traffic mess of epic proportions. Tow trucks also coursed down our street trying to get to the spin outs on Upper Truckee.

Tourists are not prepared for the icy hills on Upper Truckee and spin out. Some people simply ran out of gas while trapped in the traffic. Our neighbor's daughter started out in the morning to drive out to 50 and never got there. After hours of sitting in the back up, the dog needed to get out and the snacks for the kids were gone so she gave up and came back to the house.

As **Moya Saunders' letter** pointed out, people using Upper Truckee circumvent chain control only to cause backups when they do decide to chain up or endanger other drivers if they don't. Locals who once were able to get into town in heavy tourist traffic can no longer really do it. This impairs access for emergency vehicles and endangers locals as tourists speed through neighborhoods searching for a way to Highway 50.

I'm not sure what can be done about this. Would signage at the Y or at Sawmill get people off the icy hills, out of the neighborhoods and into proper chain control monitoring? I think Upper Truckee is a crucial route for locals to use

during busy weekends. If 50, Pioneer and Upper Truckee are all impacted in this fashion, what will the eventual fallout be? There are the obvious dangers of tourists speeding down icy streets they are unfamiliar with ... no kids played in the snow yesterday in our neighborhood. God help you if you need a fire truck or ambulance or a head of lettuce. I know this occurs in many other places. GPS can be wonderful, but it can also create the situation we witnessed yesterday.

It really makes us contemplate the increased traffic that will be generated by projects proposed in the basin and adjacent to it. The concept of carrying capacity is illustrated vividly by the situation that we saw yesterday.

Carla Ennis, Meyers

Sink hole closes Kingsbury Grade indefinitely

Kingsbury Grade has finally been closed because the sink hole that has been expanding is now too dangerous for vehicles to drive on. The closure went into effect at 5pm Jan. 3.

“As weather will play a factor, no timeframe is set to complete roadway repairs, but we will work to reopen the road as quickly and efficiently as possible,” Meg Ragonese with the Nevada Department of Transportation said in a statement. However, it is expected to take several weeks to repair.



A sign for the past two weeks warned motorists of the weakened surface on Kingsbury Grade. Photo/Lisa Huard

Lake Tahoe News first reported on the deteriorating road condition last week.

An eroding drainage pipe under the highway has created problem. It is on the Carson City side of the road.

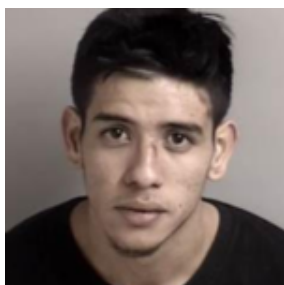
Kingsbury Grade is the main thoroughfare between the Lake Tahoe Basin and Carson Valley, with 5,600 cars on average traveling on this road. Drivers may still use the Tahoe side between Highway 50 and Tramway.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Arrest made in South Tahoe drive-by shooting

An 18-year-old South Lake Tahoe man has been arrested in connection with the Dec. 29 drive-by shooting in town.

Kevin Gonzalez was booked into jail on one felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon and one misdemeanor charge of destruction of evidence.



Kevin Gonzalez

South Lake Tahoe police officers said other arrests are possible.

The drive by shooting was at the Pioneer Inn Motel on Pioneer Trail.

Witnesses said several young Hispanic men occupied the truck. It is not known if more than one fired shots. Several rounds were discharged, but did not strike anyone.

Before the night was over the vehicle had been located.

Detectives said they watched Gonzalez retrieve and attempt to destroy evidence from a vehicle. The specific nature of this evidence is being withheld. Detectives further stated they recovered the undamaged evidence when they arrested Gonzalez.

No firearms have been recovered.

Officers initially said this was a gang shooting, they have since it is not gang related.

Anyone with information is asked to call the South Lake Tahoe Police Department a 530.542.6100 or Secret Witness at 530.541.6800.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Bill requests give peek at Sandoval's agenda

By Sandra Chereb, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Gov. Brian Sandoval is preparing for his last regular legislative session that will culminate the efforts of his administration and define the mark he leaves as Nevada's 29th chief executive.

The two-term Republican, in typical fashion, is keeping details of his legislative agenda and two-year budget proposal secret until he delivers his last State of the State address Jan. 17.

But a list of bill drafts requested by the governor's office and initiatives he orchestrated over the past two years provide a glimpse of priorities Sandoval will pursue.

Read the whole story

Pizza event benefits Animal Coalition of Tahoe

Animal Coalition of Tahoe's Pizza for Pups dinner at Blue Dog Pizza – Midtown is Jan. 25 from 6-8pm.

In the past 10 years, ACT has helped more than 1,750 area families spay and neuter their pets.

For \$10 per person (\$5 for kids under 12) supporters may dine on Blue Dog's many different gourmet pizzas, served family style. Beer and wine are available for purchase, as will be salads and all other menu items.

Proceeds benefit this South Lake Tahoe nonprofit that is run entirely by volunteers.

There will also be a raffle.

Email info@tahoeanimals.org for tickets.

SLT cemetery to allow Nevada burials

Happy Homestead Cemetery is now officially the South Shore's cemetery.

Since the South Lake Tahoe cemetery opened in 1952 no one from Nevada could be buried there. A law that took effect Jan. 1 allows residents in Glenbrook, Cave Rock, Skyland, Zephyr Cove, Round Hill, Elk Point, Kingsbury and Stateline to have Happy Homestead be their final resting place.

The first 2 acres for the cemetery on Johnson Boulevard were donated by Stella Van Dyke Johnson after her granddaughter drowned. Her children, Marjorie Springmeyer, Bill Johnson and Knox Johnson, sold another 8 acres to the district in 1982.

Happy Homestead became a special district just before that time.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Danger lurks on the flanks of Highway 50

By Tony Bizjak, Sacramento Bee

More drivers than ever this winter are parking illegally on the side of Highway 50 to play or take photos in the snow.

That's despite the fact that "No Stopping Anytime" signs frequently line the road from Placerville to Echo Summit. California Highway Patrol officials say some people are even parking on one side of the road and running across to the other, snow toys in hand.

"It's like people haven't seen snow before," CHP spokesman Brent McElmurry in Placerville said.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Steve Robison will be teaching an introduction to letter press class at Bona Fide Books in Meyers on Jan. 7 from 10am-5pm. Cost is \$50. Go **online** to sign up.

- Barton Health hosts Mommy and Me support classes (infants up to 36 months) on Tuesdays from 10am-noon and infants only (up to 1 year) on Thursdays from 2-4pm. They are

at the Barton 4th Street classroom in South Lake Tahoe. Speakers and topics vary. **Sign up online** under Support Groups.

- Incline Village brewery Alibi Ale Works plans to open a second location on Bridge Street in Truckee this spring.
 - Emerald Bay Physical Therapy is now owned by Christina Frohlich.
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Snow impacting Truckee, Incline schools

Tahoe Truckee Unified School District is taking a snow day on Jan. 3.

Schools in Incline Village are on a two-hour delay.

Lake Tahoe Unified, Douglas County and Lake Tahoe Community College are still on holiday.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report