

Letter: Community came together

To the community,

For the fourth year the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority and South Tahoe Refuse & Recycling teamed up to benefit Christmas Cheer All Year with a “drive and drop” at the LTVA’s California Visitors Center, and curbside collection on regular pick-up days. Once again we were overwhelmed by the generous response from our South Lake Tahoe community.

Thank you to all who participated in making the holidays a little brighter for those in need.

With gratitude,

Anne Sutterfield, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority

John Tillman, South Tahoe Refuse & Recycling

Greenbelt in South Lake becoming more defined

By Kathryn Reed

It’s like a trove of trails is hiding in broad daylight.

South Lake Tahoe wants to open up the area behind the commercial buildings on the southeast corner at the Y to turn it into a desirable walking-biking network.

Known as the Tahoe Valley Greenbelt, this swath of land will

also be reworked so drainage is better.

It's going to take cooperation with the California Tahoe Conservancy and private property owners to make the city's vision become a reality.

On Wednesday night about 20 people gathered at City Hall to discuss the greenbelt – to offer opinions about the proposed trails, signage, open spaces, stormwater elements, play concepts and other aspects of the project. For people who were not at the Dec. 14 meeting, a survey is **online** to give input.

The city has money via the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act to produce the environmental review and 30 percent of the planning. The CEQA document should come out in the spring.

Construction dollars would then be sought. At the earliest, construction could start in 2018.



The area in green will be a scenic corridor in South Lake Tahoe.

Dilapidated paved trails already exist behind what was called the Factory Stores at the Y (now The Crossing) and McDonald's. The plan is to upgrade what is there and create new trails – some class 1, some smaller and more interpretive in nature. They would tie into the neighborhood.

The potential to connect to Barton Health offices exists. And down the road a connector to the Greenway Bike Trail is possible when that gets built.

Plans laid out by the Design Workshop show a major connector coming out on B Street at Highway 50. Caltrans still needs to give its OK to have this be a highway crossing. Otherwise it would mean the nearest crosswalk is at the Y. For people heading west, they would be more apt to be on the wrong side of the street or jaywalk to get to the other side.

The paths won't lead right through The Crossing because that could be dangerous to have people walk/ride into and through a parking lot. However, the trail will border the back of the center where outdoor seating for a restaurant is planned.

This area behind the commercial center has gradually been thinned by the city to open it up a bit. A creek runs in the area and a meadow of sort exists. The plan is to return some of land to more of its natural setting even though part of it will be paved for trails.

This is also where the bulk of the stormwater improvements will go. The extent of the work to treat runoff will depend on property owners. McDonald's owns some land beyond its footprint because of how coverage used to be calculated. With the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency changing its coverage calculations, the restaurant could sell that "extra" land to the city or grant an easement to the city. If this occurs, a more robust stormwater plan could be built. That aspect could be smoothed out as the franchise owner comes forward with his plans to renovate the existing eatery.

The intent is to also have art and play structures along the greenbelt. Some renderings showed logs that children could scramble on instead of traditional playground equipment. Art could blend in with the natural environment.

Letter: Virtual Race a success for cancer program

To the community,

On behalf of the organizers of the Lake Tahoe Virtual Race, I would like to thank Lake Tahoe community members and businesses as well as Barton Health employees and physicians for their incredible generosity.

Barton Health recently hosted the first Virtual Race Challenge. Racers walked and ran for 72 days and recorded their mileage on a 72-mile digital map of Lake Tahoe. Together, with their financial contributors, the racers raised \$4,044 in donations to help expand Barton Health's Cancer Wellness Program.

I would also like to extend appreciation to the local businesses who gave \$1,600 in post-race prizes to encourage and motivate participants. Special thanks to Heavenly Mountain Resort/Vail Resorts Epic Promise, Homewood Mountain Resort, Sierra-at-Tahoe ski resort, South Lake Tahoe recreation services, Lake Tahoe Community College, and the Barton Foundation.

It is incredible to watch our community come together to support a common cause. As a group, we can help make a significant difference for our friends, family, and neighbors

who need our support.

The **Cancer Wellness Program** is free to community members undergoing cancer treatment and their families. The program currently includes guided exercise, yoga, and nutrition. The goal is to add and enhance services that support the mind, body, and spirit.

Kait M. Hemphill, wellness programs coordinator, Barton Education

Calif. adopts first U.S. energy-saving rules for computers

By Steve Gorman, Reuters

California regulators on Wednesday adopted the nation's first mandatory energy efficiency rules for computers and monitors – devices that account for 3 percent of home electric bills and 7 percent of commercial power costs in the state.

The state Energy Commission said that when fully implemented the industry-backed plan will save consumers \$373 million a year and conserve at least as much electricity annually as it takes to power all of San Francisco's homes.

Final approval of the standards at a meeting of the five-member commission in Sacramento capped five years spent developing the rules in collaboration with environmentalists, computer manufacturers and consumer groups.

Read the whole story

SLT pot shop landlord faces foreclosure threat

By Kathryn Reed

The commercial strip housing the Tahoe Wellness Cooperative is about to be foreclosed upon.



Patty Olson

A notice of default on the South Lake Tahoe property that is owned by Patty Olson has been filed. It is slated to be sold at auction on Jan. 17.

Cody Bass, founder and executive director of the medical marijuana collective, has been trying to buy the property since earlier this year. He is suing Olson for breach of contract.

Both sides were in mediation for the better part of Dec. 14. However, no settlement could be reached.

A mandatory settlement conference is slated for the end of January, with a trial date set for the first week of February.

It's possible the two sides could reach an agreement at any point. It's also possible for the bank to delay the auction.

U.S. Bank holds the note on the commercial property in the

Bijou Center.

Wells Fargo has the loan on the house owned by Olson which is nearby. An escrow has been entered for local businessman Bob Hasset to purchase the house. (Olson now lives in Sparks.) A different local businessman saved the house this fall from being foreclosed on.

Bass is operating his business without a permit from the city. He is unable to get the permit because Olson won't sign the necessary paperwork as the landlord. That brouhaha played out before the **City Council on Dec. 13.**

Avalanche danger lurks in Sierra

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

A potentially deadly avalanche problem is still lurking at two popular Reno-area backcountry destinations thanks to a weak layer deep in the snowpack.

That's according to the Sierra Avalanche Center which on Tuesday featured observations from Chickadee Ridge and Tamarack peak along with the daily avalanche advisory.

Chickadee and Tamarack are popular destinations for Reno and Lake Tahoe area residents who enjoy snowshoeing and backcountry skiing and snowboarding.

Read the whole story

Lawmakers want to abolish death penalty in Nev.

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

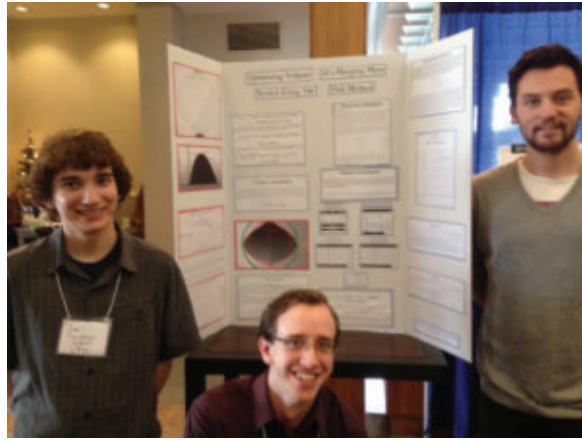
CARSON CITY – Two state legislative leaders have requested a bill be drafted to abolish the death penalty in Nevada.

Bill draft request No. 544 from Assemblyman James Ohrenschall, D-Las Vegas, would make life without the possibility of parole the maximum criminal penalty in Nevada. Sen. Tick Segerblom, D-Las Vegas, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, signed on as a joint requester of the measure.

Ohrenschall had previously indicated he would propose an amendment to the state Constitution to abolish capital punishment, a process that would take five years and a favorable vote of the people to become law.

[Read the whole story](#)

LTCC math students score at state contest



Christian Eckert, Mark McCullough and J.C. Stephens

Three Lake Tahoe Community College students grabbed the top prize at a statewide mathematics conference for their poster entry for general math.

The winning poster was designed to explain optimizing volume of a hanging mass system using the disk method. The disk method is a technique borrowed from calculus that can be used to find the volume of a rotating mass system.

Christian Eckert, Mark McCullough and J.C. Stephens built the contraption, rotated it, and collected data from it. They then compared elliptical, polynomial and sinusoidal models to come up with the best fitting model. Finally, they performed the experiment and completed the mathematics by themselves, with a bit of guidance from LTCC math instructor Larry Green.

The students won \$100 at the California Mathematics Council Community Colleges annual conference in Monterey this month.

State Parks sponsoring youth art contest

Winning student artists could have their work displayed at the state Capitol.

California State Parks is hosting an art contest that reflects what the artist discovered in one of the state parks.

Any flat medium is acceptable, including chalk, crayon, marker, ink, paint, watercolor or collage.

The contest is open to ages 4-6, 7-9, 10-12, 13-15 and 16-18. The deadline to submit is Dec. 17. Winners will be announced in January

Rules and entry forms, are **online**.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Tahoe Transportation District has pushed back the release date of the environmental documents related to the loop road to January at the earliest.
- South Tahoe Refuse Company's 1.59 percent rate increase will be voted on Dec. 15 by the Douglas County commissioners.
- Christmas tree permits in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit are gone. The agency sold approximately 4,500 permits this year.
- The Humane Society of Truckee-Tahoe's 2017 calendar is

available for sale **online** and in stores.

· The Dec. 15 tree mortality community meeting in Grizzly Flats has been canceled.