

2016 on target to be world's warmest year

By Matt McGrath, BBC

2016 looks poised to be the warmest year on record globally, according to preliminary data.

With data from just the first nine months, scientists are 90 percent certain that 2016 will pass the mark set by 2015.

Temperatures from January to September were 1.2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

The body says temperatures should remain high enough for the rest of the year to break the previous record.

El Nino has had an impact, but the most significant factor driving temperatures up continues to be CO2 emissions.

Read the whole story

'60 Meters to Anywhere' author coming to TC

Critically acclaimed Semi-Rad.com author Brendan Leonard will present stories from his newest book "Sixty Meters to Anywhere" on Dec. 9.

The presentation will take place at the Tahoe Art Haus & Cinema in Tahoe City at 7pm.

Leonard is a contributing editor at Climbing magazine, Adventure Journal, and the Dirtbag Diaries. Denver-based Leonard is most known for the funny and inspirational adventure essays he's published on Semi-Rad.com since 2011, but his path to the mountains started in a much darker place

This is being described as a "motivational stand-up comedy show."

Tickets for the show are \$11 in advance, \$14 that night.
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2711794>

Tahoe Adventure Film Festival marks year 14

Marking 14 years of adventure sports cinematography and culture, Tahoe Adventure Film Festival is the annual gathering of the who's who of outdoor adventure.

It's where the industry's best filmmakers premier their latest adventure sports films one night only hosted by festival creator and adventurer Todd Offenbacher. Many of the segments are special edits, including previews of films that have not been released.

This year the festival will include edits that highlight the lifestyle of the action and adventure athlete. Several films delve into the mindset of the adventurer and how each lives their life to the fullest. The film "Snow Flake" reveals the passion of one of Switzerland's happiest ski bums. A sneak peek of "Dirt Bag Climber" is a film Offenbacher has been directly involved in for 15 years. The film follows the life and commitment of 93-year-old American climber Fred Beckey.

The full-length version will be released in spring 2017.

For the past 11 years, Offenbacher has presented the Golden Camelot to honor action and adventure sports pioneers for their astounding contributions, excellence, achievements, and leadership that have shaped so many lives and defined our culture.

A raffle sponsored by Mammut will raise money for the nonprofit Sierra Avalanche Center.

The 2016 Tahoe Adventure Film Festival debuts at its birthplace in South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 10 at MontBleu in Stateline. The doors open at 6:30pm, followed by the films at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the MontBleu ticket office – 775.588.3515.

Starting in January, Offenbacher takes his show on the road to Petaluma, Park City, Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, San Francisco, Mammoth, Reno, and Minden.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Goldy

Goldy is a 2-year-old shorthair cat. She came to the shelter with kittens and now that they have all found their homes she is ready for one of her very own. She is a nice cat and loves to pose for photos.

Goldy is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Ski exec: California industry thriving

By Kathryn Reed

TRUCKEE – Those living in Lake Tahoe know the ski industry is big business. But it's also a lucrative industry for the state of California with a \$1.3 billion annual impact.

Michael Reitzell, executive director of the California Ski Industry Association, and Daphne Lange with Visit California, the state tourism agency, spoke at the Truckee Chamber of Commerce breakfast this month about trends in the industry.

California averages nearly 7 million skier visits a season. Colorado's average is 20 million. Nationally the average is 56 million.

Half of those skiers in California are going to the Tahoe-Shasta area, while 30 percent are hitting the Central Sierra slopes – which includes Mammoth. What makes this market different, according to Reitzell, is that people spend more money in this region. This area captures 57.1 percent of the skier-boarder dollars or \$742.8 million a year.

"Participation is strong and steady," Reitzell told the group. One thing that is changing is people are doing more than just skiing – they are participating in the other activities resorts offer.

In recent years there have been more skiers on the slopes, while the number of snowboarders is decreasing. Seventy percent of those skiers are younger than 50.

Reitzell in part attributed the increase in skiers to better equipment, newbies seeing their friends and family members on skis, and the Olympics introducing more exciting events that

in the past had been dominated by snowboarders.

Snow clearly is what makes the difference in whether people are coming to Tahoe. Last season there were 7.3 million skier visits in the state – so more than average. Even though it was normal snow-wise, it came after three years of substandard snowfall. The 2014-15 skier visit total in California was 4.4 million.

When it comes to marketing the area, Tahoe falls under the High Sierra region for the state. Ninety-three percent of the trips to the state are domestic travelers, but the international travelers account for 20 percent of the spending.

Half of the visitors to California come from either Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Colorado or Arizona, according to Lange.

The 2015 tourism numbers improved over 2014:

- Total direct spending – \$2.7 billion – 5.7 percent change
- Tourism supported jobs – 29,400 – 3.1 percent change
- Local tax receipts – \$108 million – 9 percent change
- State tax receipts – \$110 million – 1.8 percent change.

While promoting the resorts in the state is one of the ski association's main responsibilities, safety and sustainability are the other two key platforms.

"Our resorts even in normal times can be right around where the snow is. We have to be concerned if the snow levels rise," Reitzell said.

His agency is also worried about the rising number of fires as

the climate changes. Because of this the association is working with the U.S. Forest Service in regards to fire suppression funding. Most of the state's ski resorts are on Forest Service land.

Opinion: College rankings miss the point of university

By Kim A. Wilcox

In the next several weeks, millions of high school seniors will apply to colleges and universities across the nation. If you are one of them—and if you come from a low-income family or are a minority student—I urge you not to look at higher education rankings systems that emphasize reputation, acceptance rates, and alumni giving.

Instead, keep your eye on rankings that rely upon a different set of numbers: Namely, graduation and retention rates. That's because the current trends in enrolling and graduating low-income and minority students threaten social justice in higher education.

American Council on Education statistics show that college enrollment among low-income students has fallen to 46 percent, 20 percent below the national average. While African American and Latino enrollment is rising somewhat, there are troubling gaps in outcomes for these students.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, among students enrolled in four-year institutions only 41 percent of African American students and 53 percent of Latino students ultimately attain bachelor's degrees. That's compared to at least 70

percent of Asian counterparts, and 63 percent of Caucasians.

To see these contrasts in detail, just take a look at the chart accompanying this text. It's based on data from the U.S. Department of Education, the Education Trust, and UC Riverside, where I'm chancellor.

While some institutions focus on efforts to ensure low-income and minority students en masse get their degrees and move into rewarding careers, they're probably not listed among the private colleges and universities that dominate the top 10 lists in the U.S. News & World Report, Wall Street Journal, or Forbes rankings. The nation's public higher education institutions, less frequently cited at the top of these rankings, enroll more than 70 percent of all four-year college students—including a preponderance of low-income and minority students.

So applicants and their parents should look to other higher education resources to gauge more relevant measures. For example, the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard allows you to compare tuition and living costs, graduation rates, and income after graduation.

Furthermore, there are important questions students should ask about any school they're considering:

- What is the diversity picture? Will you be 1 in 100 on your campus, or 1 in 5? Statistics show having a critical mass of diversity in the student population makes a difference. If you have a group of people like you on campus, you are more likely to succeed.

- Does the institution offer first-year programs such as learning communities, which help create small cohorts of freshmen studying particular courses? Experience has shown that these programs help students keep up with studies and get off to a good start toward graduation. At larger institutions, learning communities can help keep the collegiate experience

from being overwhelming for freshmen. Thanks to learning communities, we've been able to recently increase our freshmen retention rates at UC Riverside by more than 6 percent, with particular success among women, Hispanic, Asian-American, first-generation, and low-income students.

• Low-income and minority students should always ask about these types of programs and support systems: When it comes to enrolling, retaining, and graduating students, these are the efforts that make the difference.

Investment in a college degree transforms society, and improves an individual's chances of getting ahead. University of California research shows that, within five years of graduation, UC students who qualified for federal Pell Grant aid have an annual income of approximately \$50,000—more than double the combined salaries of their parents.

So start your college search not with a default to high-profile rankings systems, but with an earnest look at the measures that will guarantee your success in college and beyond.

Kim A. Wilcox is chancellor of UC Riverside.

Hostels, shared hotel rooms take root in U.S.

By Elaine Glusac, New York Times

Hostels, budget havens of the post-college European travel circuit, traditionally offer bare-bones bunks in communal dormitories. Now for those whose tastes have graduated beyond

the backpacking years but whose finances have not, a new breed of hybrid hostel sprouting up on this side of the Atlantic bundles better design, lively bars and restaurants and even some private rooms, all still nicely priced.

Most of those travelers are millennials – 70 percent globally. This travel-loving generation is fueling the expansion of hostels, bargain hotel brands like Tru by Hilton and shared accommodations like Airbnb.

But unlike whole home or apartment rentals, the new hostels make social interaction central to the stay, particularly through food and drink but also concerts, art exhibits and shared work spaces.

Read the whole story

High cost for not offering paid sick leave

By Austin Frakt, San Francisco Chronicle

Each week about 1.5 million Americans without paid sick leave go to work despite feeling ill. At least half of employees of restaurants and hospitals – two settings where disease is easily spread – go to work when they have a cold or the flu, according to a recent poll.

To address that issue, Chipotle began offering paid sick leave to all its U.S. employees this year. The chain is hoping to reduce the spread of infectious disease – like the norovirus outbreaks traced to its restaurants last year and earlier this year. Although many industrialized countries already require

employers to offer paid sick leave to all employees, the United States does not.

Paid sick leave is not free, of course. Economic theory suggests that its cost would be passed from employers to employees in the form of lower wages or reductions in other benefits. Yet employees and their co-workers may be better off with an incentive to take time off when sick.

Read the whole story

Reno's family-friendly makeover

By Susan Moeller, Boston Globe

On a cold night in March, Great Full Gardens restaurant in a nondescript brick building in Reno's MidTown District is jamming. Locavores tuck into plates that are paleo-friendly at one table, vegan at the next, grass-fed at another. One of my daughters, Emily, is eating a black bean burger. The other, Sophie, is sipping an artisan kombucha. There's not a slot machine, cigarette, exotic dancer, or daiquiri in sight. Welcome to 21st-century Reno.

Tell someone you're headed to Reno and you're likely to hear a story involving copious amounts of alcohol and activities unfit for a family newspaper. But because Sophie has lived in the area for almost 10 years, I've developed a soft spot for "The Biggest Little City in the World." Often thought of as a smaller, less glitzy – but generally more affordable – cousin to Las Vegas, Reno is in the midst of a big makeover. And it's not just about the food.

In the last few years, Reno's city leaders and entrepreneurs have embraced its easy access to the outdoors, reasonable climate (at 4,000 feet, it's markedly cooler than Vegas and has lots of sunshine); central location (about a four-hour drive from the San Francisco Bay Area); and the culture of Burning Man (about 30,000 "Burners" fly into the Reno-Tahoe International Airport each summer on their way to the arts gathering in Black Rock Desert).

Read the whole story

Zephyr Cove library offering children's storytime

The Zephyr Cove branch of the Douglas County Public Library this month will be providing children's storytime for ages 3-10.

Storytime will be in the library on Nov. 17, Nov. 23, and Nov. 30 at 3:30pm.

In addition to stories, children may participate in various activities, songs, and coloring.

The Zephyr Cove Library is located at 233 Warrior Way in Zephyr Cove.

For more info, call 775.588.6411.