

Major roadwork on Hwy. 50 west of Echo Summit

Construction and maintenance work will cause traffic delays along a 45-mile stretch of Highway 50 between Camino and Echo Summit for the next three months.

Crews will be setting up lane restrictions on the four-lane section of Highway 50 in the Camino area and one-way traffic control on the two-lane stretch of highway over the summit. Motorists can expect up to 20 minute delays. These lane restrictions will continue through the end of November, weather permitting.

Caltrans will be removing hundreds of dead trees along the highway, paving a section of roadway over the summit and doing foundation drilling on Echo Summit.

Here is the schedule:

- There will be one-way traffic control starting at 9pm Aug. 21, and continuing through 9am Aug. 26 at the Echo Summit Bridge. Crews will be drilling into the foundation to gather information for plans to replace the bridge. Work will take a break for another construction project and resume in late September. Completion is expected on Oct. 15.

- Around the clock one-way traffic control between Strawberry and Johnson Pass Road around Echo Summit is scheduled to start at midnight Aug. 29 and continue through mid-October. Crews will be doing pavement grinding and paving work.

- From Sept. 6 through the end of November, motorists can expect lane restrictions and one-way traffic control to occur at various times and locations between Braeburn Lane in Camino and Echo Summit. Crews will be removing hundreds of

dead or dying trees impacted by the drought and the bark beetle infestation to ensure public health and safety.

Historic-themed events at Tahoe Tallac Site

There are several programs coming up at the Tahoe Tallac Site.

Afternoon with Anita – Aug. 19, 1pm – Meet Anita Baldwin for some light refreshments while she tells you stories of the Tallac Casino and Resort. She recounts her adventures as the daughter of the infamous Lucky Baldwin. Cost – \$10.

Kitchen Kids – Aug. 19, Aug. 24, Aug. 26, Aug. 31, 1pm – An opportunity for children ages 6-12 to bake recipes from scratch that were available in the 1920s. Once they learn to bake it, they get to feast on their accomplishments. Cost – \$10.

Vintage Vatican – Aug. 20, Sept. 3, 4pm – Imagine yourself as a guest of Mrs. Pope on a summer afternoon. Step back in time as you take on the persona of one of the movers and shakers of the 1920's. Sit on the porch of this magnificent house and enjoy the view, sip refreshments, and sample period appetizers. Cost – \$15.

Soiree at Sunset – Aug. 24, 7:30pm – Step into the shoes of a well-known 1920's persona and join Mrs. Pope for an evening soiree, complete with music and dancing. Enjoy the sunset while tasting period hors d'oeuvres and bootleg Champagne. Cost – \$35.

Tea and Scones – Sept. 10, Sept. 17, 1pm – Learn how to make scones from scratch at the historic Pope Estate. Indulge on your tasty accomplishments while sipping tea and enjoying the glorious view of Lake Tahoe from the porch of the Pope House. Cost – \$15.

The Tallac Historic Site is at 1 Heritage Way, Camp Richardson. Tickets for most programs may be purchased **online**. For more info, call 530.541.5227.

No solutions come out of housing forum

By Terra Breeden

Whether you own a home in Lake Tahoe or rent one, count yourself lucky to have a roof over your head. The housing crisis in Lake Tahoe is reaching a crescendo.

On Aug. 17 a throng of concerned residents met at the Tahoe Beach Retreat for a community meeting regarding the South Lake Tahoe housing crisis.

The meeting, hosted by Tahoe Regional Young Professionals, addressed the issues that have led to the affordable housing shortage in the community and discussed solutions to the problem.

Jenna Palacio, Executive Director of TRYP said, “This isn’t your mom’s affordable housing event. It’s a serious problem and we are saying goodbye to a lot of people who can’t afford a house here.”

A panel of experts from Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Urban

Housing Communities project, Tahoe Prosperity Center and Tahoe Truckee Foundation presented the reasons Lake Tahoe is experiencing a housing crisis.



Dozens of people on Aug. 17 attend a housing workshop in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Terra Breeden

According to a study conducted by the Tahoe Prosperity Center, the housing shortage is because of the very nature of the area. Quite simply, Lake Tahoe is a resort community that relies on tourism dollars to support the economy.

Employment in the Lake Tahoe community is primarily focused on tourism and visitor services. The majority of residents work in these industries where pay is low and jobs are often seasonal. Sixty-three percent of Tahoe residents fall into a low-income bracket.

Because Lake Tahoe is a world-renowned destination, many people from outside the community buy houses in Tahoe as vacation homes. With limited land to build and expand towns, property is becoming scarce. These factors combined have made Lake Tahoe houses expensive, and home rentals are becoming

harder and harder to find.

"We are in a housing crisis simply because there aren't enough houses for residents and there is limited room to build more," speaker Sara Schrichte from the Tahoe Truckee Foundation said.

According to the study by the Tahoe Prosperity Center, nearly two-thirds of Tahoe's houses are second homes, not primary residences, and the median home price in the Tahoe basin was 1,007 percent of the median income. This ratio was significantly higher than ratios observed in other areas such as Reno (530 percent) and the Bay Area (838 percent).

After laying out why the community is experiencing a housing shortage, the panel and audience began a discussion about what can actually be done to solve this problem. There is so much red tape from the state government and local planning agencies such as TRPA, that solutions to the housing crisis seemed daunting.

"We are always going to have a very limited supply and a very high demand for people who want to buy homes in Lake Tahoe," South Lake Tahoe City Manager Nancy Kerry said.

Yet, many of the ideas focused on solving the housing problem and boosting the local economy so that Tahoe residents can actually afford a home in the area where they live and work.

Heidi Hill Drum from the Tahoe Prosperity Center proposed said that building the economy in Lake Tahoe is a key factor in solving the housing crisis. If residents can generate higher incomes, they will be able to afford homes in Lake Tahoe.

"The way our organization is approaching housing is with a work force project that allows businesses to expand and offer higher wages," Drum said.

Another solution to combatting the housing crisis is to develop more affordable housing projects. All of the low-

income housing that has been built in the Tahoe basin has been immensely successful. The Aspens, an affordable housing project in South Lake Tahoe geared toward low-income residents, has more than 40 units and all are occupied. In fact, there is a six-year waiting list to rent a home in the Aspens.

But to build more affordable housing in Tahoe requires government funding for building permits, land parcels, and housing development. Local taxpayers won't fund these projects, so the state government – still taxpayers – has to step in and make it happen.

"We need affordable housing in our towns, but we are competing for government funds with cities like Fresno where people really need affordable housing," Kerry said.

Once the panel laid out the issues and possible solutions to the housing crisis, the audience asked questions and ones submitted online were asked.

One of the questions focused on the tiny house trend that is taking the country by storm. "Are tiny houses available in Tahoe? Could tiny houses help revive the housing crisis?" were questions posted by a resident in the online discussion.

According to the panel, tiny houses require the same amount of government fees as a \$450,000 private residence.

"The fees don't pencil out. But I have a developer interested in building smaller units to make it economically feasible," Susan Simon from Simon Consulting said. "However, it's a great question and worth looking into."

Lyn Barnett, a local resident and founder of the nonprofit organization Saint Joseph Community Land Trust, said, "I advocate that TRPA set aside a large percentage of homes to be owner-occupied only and not be a second home for someone in Los Angeles." Barnett used to work for the bi-state regulatory

agency before starting his own consulting firm.

Barnett's sentiment echoed that of many community members because his statement was met with a resounding applause.

After Barnett suggested putting a cap on vacation homes in the Tahoe basin, many other audience members voiced similar opinions. Everyone seemed to agree that, yes, Tahoe is a place where people from all over the world want to live, but if we keep letting non-residents buy all of the homes in the Tahoe basin, pretty soon there will be nowhere for local residents to reside.

"It's going to take all of us to solve the housing problem – the community, the city, everyone. But we have to do what we can to provide affordable housing for everyone," Mark Irving from the Urban Housing Communities project said.

Nev. out of the execution business for now

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Nevada is out of the execution business, at least for now.

One of the two drugs needed to administer an execution by lethal injection has expired and the drug manufacturer has refused to provide any further supplies, state officials were told Tuesday.

Dozens of killers are on death row, but should any of their final appeals fail, it would be impossible for the state to carry out their death sentences.

Read the whole story

Former Tahoe teacher dies in Ariz. crash



Sue
Bartholomew

Longtime Tahoe resident and retired teacher Sue Bartholomew died Aug. 15 in a vehicle accident in Arizona.

This was one of five accidents involving 14 vehicles after a dust storm cut visibility to zero on Interstate 10 near the California border, according to the Associated Press.

Bartholomew, 76, had been living full time in Litchfield Park, Ariz., for the past two years.

A Mass will be celebrated Aug. 25 at 8am at St. Theresa Church in South Lake Tahoe. There will be a celebration of life at a later date.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Union opposes NV Energy breakup, Reid backs it, and utility claims to be neutral

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

NV Energy reaffirmed its plans Tuesday to remain neutral on a ballot measure that would start a multiyear process of ending the company's regulated monopoly on supplying electricity. Later in the day, organized labor confirmed plans to oppose the measure, while Sen. Harry Reid voiced his support.

The ballot measure known as the Energy Choice Initiative, with financial support from Nevada gaming and technology companies, would create a competitive retail energy market in which customers would be able to buy electricity from suppliers other than NV Energy.

Under the language of the measure, a proposed constitutional amendment, NV Energy could continue operating the grid, handling transmission and distribution for suppliers.

[Read the whole story](#)

Ex-Truckee resident seeks first medal in 5 Olympics



Katerina Nash, who trains in Truckee, will compete in mountain biking in Rio on Aug. 19. Photo/Clif Bar & Company

By Chris Murray, Reno Gazette-Journal

Atlanta. Nagano. Salt Lake City. London.

It sounds like a nice list of cities to travel to while on vacation. But for former Wolf Pack star Katerina Nash, it's the list of Olympic Games she has participated in. And come Saturday, you can add Rio to the list. Nash, who lived in Truckee from 2000-13 and still trains there, will compete in her locally unparalleled fifth Olympics this weekend. It will be her third Summer Games to go with two Winter Games appearances.

Nash's Olympic career has spanned a ridiculous 20 years, her first appearance coming in Atlanta at age 18 and what will likely be her last Olympics coming in Rio at age 38. Both of those appearances were in mountain biking, but Nash also added two Winter Olympic appearances in Nordic skiing in between.

Nash, one of 30 in the field for the cross country mountain bike, is one of the world's most experienced active Olympians. She'll toe the line for her 11th event in her five Olympics appearances Saturday at 8:30am. When she does so, she'll be just as nervous in Rio as she was in Atlanta, which marked her first trip to America.

Read the whole story

10 South Lake Tahoe council candidates

Ten people will vie for two seats on the South Lake Tahoe City Council.

On the Nov. 8 ballot will be Jason Collin, JoAnn Conner, Patrick Jarrett, Brooke Laine, Ted Long, Danny McLaughlin, Trey Riddle, John Shearer, Robert Topel and Tami Wallace.

Other South Shore races have not changed since last week.

3 days of camel races in Virginia City

Camels, ostriches and zebras return to historic Virginia City for the 57th annual International Camel & Ostrich Races on Sept. 9-11.

This year's event includes a family fun zone and activity center. The fun zone opens at 10am daily, with racing starting at noon.

The event is at the Virginia City Arena and Fairgrounds on F Street.

New this year is kids' ticket pricing on Sept. 9 – \$8. On Sept. 11 the first 100 kids in line get a free camel ride courtesy of Dolan Auto Group. Tickets and more information are available **online**.

Queen safe at the dock, but unable to sail

By Kathryn Reed

Coast Guard officials spent Wednesday scouring the Tahoe Queen after a fire swept through it the day before.

It has been determined to be structurally sound and poses no threat to the public. However, it won't be leaving the dock anytime soon.

"They are making sure the vessel is sea worthy at the pier – that it is not going to sink or capsize," Coast Guard Lt. Lt. Jake Aulner told *Lake Tahoe News*. "The vessel is not sea worthy for getting under way or carrying passengers."

While the cause of the fire has not been determined,

investigators said it started on the second level.

Painters and welders were working on renovating the boat when the fire broke out just after 8am Aug. 16. Aulner said the investigation will determine if the two types of contractors working in the same area sparked the blaze or if was something else.

The Coast Guard will also eventually put a dollar value on the loss.



The future of the Tahoe Queen is in limbo after the Aug. 16 fire. Photo/LTN

Ultimately it will be up to owner Aramark and insurance investigators to determine the future of the paddle-wheeler.

"We are cooperating with the U.S. Coast Guard as they investigate the cause of the fire. We are still in the process of determining extent of damage," Karen Cutler, spokeswoman for Aramark, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

There appears to be no environmental damage from the blaze.

"There was some ash/burn debris on the water, but they did not see any sign of fuel or oil spilled associated with the fire and all the fire retardant was contained," Tom Lotshaw with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency told *Lake Tahoe News*.

That was the same conclusion of the Coast Guard and the U.S. Forest Service.

At the time of the fire there were approximately 800 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of hydraulic oil onboard. None was lost during the blaze.

"No petroleum product reached the lake; any sheen on the surface of the water was from the Class A foam that Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District used to put out the fire," Lisa Herron, spokeswoman for the Forest Service, told *Lake Tahoe News*. The USFS owns the land, with Aramark being the concessionaire.

The pier did not sustain any damage or scorching.

Aramark has a permit from the TRPA to operate one boat out of Zephyr Cove Marina, though more than one can be stored there. The Dixie operates there and the Queen was on site during renovations. It was only eight years ago that the Queen received a make-over to the tune of more than a half million dollars. She was originally launched the last week of June 1983. The first public cruise was Aug. 11, 1983.

The Queen used to be able to carry 500 passengers. That number

dropped to 300 with the 2008 renovation in order to create a more relaxing, spacious setting.

Even though the Tahoe Queen has been at Zephyr Cove for more than a year, the lease with Ski Run Marina is still in effect – meaning they still have to pay that rent. That agreement, though, expires at the end of the year.

The Dixie resumed normal operations on Wednesday after two cruises were canceled Tuesday. It had been tied up near the Queen when the fire started, but crews were able to take her out so she didn't catch fire.