

‘Probationary’ removed from STHS accreditation

By Kathryn Reed

A stressful two years has ended with South Tahoe High School now being fully accredited.

“Sometimes in crisis comes the opportunity for reestablishing a focus,” Superintendent Jim Tarwater told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The Western Association of Schools and Colleges had placed the school on a two-year probationary status in 2016. Lake Tahoe Unified School District appealed the decision to no avail. Chad Houck, principal at the time, did not have his contract renewed.

The new accreditation is for six years, but only goes through June 2022. This is because the two-year probationary period is considered part of those six years. As is custom, there is always a site visit from WASC officials at the midpoint. That means they’ll be back in spring 2019 – the three-year mark in how they count.

The letter dated May 3 to Principal Carline Sinkler from WASC says, “South Tahoe High School is required to prepare an in-depth progress report for the mid-cycle visit. The report and visit should demonstrate that the school has:

- Addressed the critical areas for follow-up through the schoolwide action plan;
- Made appropriate progress on the implementation of the schoolwide action plan; and
- Improved student achievement relative to the schoolwide learner outcomes and the academic standards.”

Tarwater said two main things changed between the outcome two years ago and receiving the good news. One, is the increased parent involvement with better communication and including their vision into the school's philosophy. The second, is more staff involvement so "everyone has skin in the game."

"They liked the facilities, programs and technology. They wanted more professional development, more implementation of Common Core, and collaboration with staff," Tarwater explained.

The district gave each school \$50 per student to be used for professional development. This is an ongoing line item in the budget. Training has been acknowledged as a necessary component to keep teachers and staff updated on the latest trends, technology and other nuances needed in a classroom.

In the last four years the district has hired 84 new teachers. They and the veterans all need that support.

STHS changed what needed changing, brought in outside help like that of former Principal Ivone Larson, and engaged more people – including students – for what turned to be the correct combination to have accreditation acknowledged without an asterisk.

"STHS is on a clear path toward being a school as extraordinary as the place we live," Principal Carline Sinkler said in a community email. She did not return *LTN's* call.

While on the probationary status STHS was still full accredited and there was no risk to students going onto college.

The Viking Graduate Profile was created in the aftermath of the probationary notice. The goal is to promote six enduring qualities – critical thinking, collaboration, curiosity, communication, character, and healthy independence. Those traits are also now being focused on younger grade levels as

well.

In assessing the culture, academics and other issues at the high school, it led to an evaluation of the entire district. After all, if things are not going well at the feeder schools, it's likely to carry-over into the high school.

The district as a whole is focusing more on the entire student and not just academics. Starting next school year there will be a nurse at every school site. This is not a common practice in districts.

"I think it will help support the critical needs kids," Tarwater said. He added it should help with attendance as well.

Something else coming to the schools is a social worker.

"It will give support to parents during trauma times," Tarwater said. "We want to do a whole wrap around."

It's no longer just about academics in schools. The social and emotional well-being of students now lies with the schools. The world has changed and school districts are trying to catch up to be way more than the three R's.

Nonprofit addressing aviation workforce shortage

Local high school and college students can meet aviation executives and local business leaders at a special networking event at the Truckee Tahoe Airport on May 17.

It's the featured event during the Pathways to Aviation Career

Week, designed to illustrate the aviation industry's greatest workforce issues, promote career opportunities, and connect industry leaders with its next generation.

The networking event, which starts at 5:30pm at the airport's terminal building, will address industry trends and needs and encourage students to talk careers with aviation and business leaders.

The aviation industry is facing a severe workforce shortage.

Events and activities taking place during Aviation Career Week are free. For more information, go **online**.

Gardening workshops in Truckee

Slow Food Lake Tahoe in partnership with the UCCE Master Gardeners of Lake Tahoe is offering a five-week series of workshops at the Truckee Demonstration Garden.

Each Wednesday from May 16 until June 13 from 5:30-7pm the master gardeners will provide a history lesson on each plant, planting instructions, and attendees will receive free cultivars to take home.

Not sure how to grow an organic garden? Join us for one more Wednesday evening for Grow-Your-Own Organic Gardening 101 at the Truckee Demonstration Garden. On June 20 from 5:30-7pm soil scientist and SFLT board member Heather Cullen will cover the basics of soil, how to grow a healthy soil food web, the high-altitude plant requirements, site selection, garden design and layout and more.

Spring gardening skillshares:

May 16 – Potatoes

May 23 – Onions

May 30 – Berries

June 06 – Lettuce and kale

June 13 – Tomatoes

June 20 – Organic Gardening 101.

For more info, email truckeegarden@gmail.com.

As winter warms, bears can't sleep

By Kendra Pierre-Louis, New York Times

There are certain axioms about the natural world we learn as children. The sea is salty. Plants grow toward light. Bears hibernate in winter.

But as climate change leads to warmer winters, later falls and earlier springs – which can disrupt both food supplies and biological rhythms – American black bears are changing their hibernation routines, scientists say. In some cases, bears are not hibernating at all, staying awake all winter. In others, bears are waking from their slumber too early.

For every one degree Celsius that minimum temperatures increase in winter, bears hibernate for six fewer days, a study found last fall. As global temperatures continue to rise, by the middle of the century black bears may stay awake between 15 and 39 more days per year, the study said.

Read the whole story

Caesars no longer screening job applicants for marijuana use

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Caesars Entertainment Corp., which is the parent company of Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harveys, has joined the ranks of companies that no longer screen job candidates for marijuana use as a condition of employment.

But that doesn't mean the company has stopped all testing.

A company spokesman on Monday said the need for good workers coupled with the state's recent legalization of recreational marijuana use has ended pre-employment testing for pot.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Dump Day in South Lake Tahoe is June 9, 8am-4pm. For details, go **online**.
 - South Tahoe Public Utility District received the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for the district's 2017 annual financial report. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments.
 - Truckee High School Principal John Carlson will be retiring at the end of the school year. Logan Mallonee, current assistant principal, will become the new principal of Truckee High beginning July 1.
 - The 8th annual charity golf tournament For the Kids hosted by Mike Tice, former head coach of the Minnesota Vikings and more recently offensive line coach for the Oakland Raiders, will take place June 15-17. Funds raised will go toward building a clubhouse for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada in the Carson Valley, which is currently located at Pau Wa Lu Middle School. For more info, go **online**.
 - Each week during the school year, Bread & Broth 4 Kids sends bags of food home with food insecure children for weekend nourishment. Stop by Grocery Outlet in South Lake Tahoe on May 19 from 10am-3pm to donate food from our wish list or help with a monetary donation so food may be purchased.
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Tahoe farmers' market season about to open



Bright Lights chard will be one of the early offerings at the Tuesday market in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Jim Coalwell

By Susan Wood

Farmers' markets sprout summer like no other symbol of outdoor living.

At Lake Tahoe, it's almost an emotional tie to Mother Earth's bounty after enduring the harsh nature of winter. It's also a time to connect with neighbors – whether here permanently or part time.

The South Shore kicks off the season with the Ski Run (Boulevard) Farmers Market on Fridays from 3-8pm starting June 1. Four days later, the El Dorado County Certified Farmers

Market will begin its pilgrimage at the American Legion Hall parking lot from 8am to 1pm.



Tahoe-area farmers' markets:

- El Dorado County Certified Farmers Market

American Legion off Highway 50, South Lake Tahoe

Tuesdays 8am-1pm; starting June 5

- Ski Run Farmers Market
1132 Ski Run Blvd.; South Lake Tahoe

Fridays 3-8pm; starting June 1

- Incline Village Farmers Market

Library at 845 Alder Ave.; Incline Village

Thursdays 4-7pm; starting May 24

- Tahoe City Farmers Market
Commons Beach at 280 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City

Thursdays 8am-1pm; starting

May 17

- Truckee Community Farmers Market

12047 Donner Pass Road;
Truckee

Sundays 9am-1pm; starting
June 10

This year, there's none scheduled at Kahle Community Center as "it lacked community support," markets manager Steve Rozier explained. Instead, he will focus on the Incline Village Farmers Market slated for Thursdays from 4 to 7pm – with a new home at the library at 845 Alder Ave.

Rozier will also provide South Shore representation with his produce available at www.laketahoemarkets.com through the market box. This program offers the complimentary services to those in the city of South Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Zephyr Cove and Glenbrook. Meyers residents pay \$3 per delivery.

"We keep our eye on the markets," Rozier said, referring to the potential of both his own and other Tahoe-area markets.

In a day and age where almost weekly bulletins announce contamination of some type of food, farmers' markets get to tout the freshness of their produce.

"We pride ourselves on fresh produce. We get our romaine lettuce from Watsonville," Rozier told *Lake Tahoe News*, pointing to a recent outbreak of those sickened by lettuce.

EDC Markets manager Jim Coalwell agrees.

"You know personally who's selling (the produce) to you, know it's locally grown and know (the grower will) be back there next week," he said.

Despite an overall price increase of about 20 percent, markets customers seem to buy into that justification as they return

year after year.

Through time, much of the farmers' and growers' fears focus on the unpredictable nature of weather.

"It was a strange spring," Coalwell noted.

He said the West Slope witnessed "a false spring" in February, then the trees froze in March. Coalwell, who grows stone fruit and greens, sighed while considering how climate disruption all evened out in the end in time for this season.

"Our orchard looks really good. It has a nice set of peaches and should start out with a good bang," he told *Lake Tahoe News*.

And as always, don't expect tomatoes anytime soon – unless they come from Manteca. Others should hit the crates come July.



The Ski Run market in South Lake Tahoe is more than just produce. Photo/Provided

It's a soup-to-nuts type of display anticipated on Ski Run Boulevard in front Blue Angel Café to launch summer weekends on the South Shore.

Market customers will see more fresh meats, hot food vendors, popcorn and nuts mixed with local art and homegrown bands to entertain the crowds, market manager Mollie Mason said.

Mason has noticed more entrepreneurs in Tahoe showing up to sell their wares among the 40 vendors.

“The market is a great way to get their (business) feet wet,” she said.

This setting – which has been around for eight years – is all about the experience. Picnic tables are set up to urge families to stay a while.

Tuesday’s longtime mainstay at the Legion on Lake Tahoe Boulevard has evolved with a little diversity of its own. It’s always been known as attracting growers bringing fruits and veggies from as far away as Fresno in California’s lush Central Valley. Through the years, farmers have shared the parking lot with other products – with the one stipulation of being locally made.

Some of the food can even be pre-made for the customers.

“It’s turned out to be quite lucrative,” Tahoe private chef Eunie Lyle said of Tuesday’s market. She’s set up a booth for her party catering business for eight years.

“It’s important to put a face to a business,” she said. The face becomes more welcoming when the person attached to it hands you professionally-prepared food. Lyle enjoys handing out samples of dishes.

The markets have worked out so well, she plans to hit Ski Run’s on Fridays and will consider Incline Village’s.

Her big goal is to introduce people to great tasting meals that don’t have to be complex.

“I feel sorry for people who don’t know just to add a little lemon juice and pepper,” she said.

A social animal herself, Lyle admitted that’s one of the aspects of the farmers markets she relishes. It can be a party in itself.

“I get to speak to all kinds of people I don’t usually meet,”

she said.

As it turns out, she's not alone.

Agreeing is Lisa Hori, who has brought out her husband Dirk Yuricich's photography to the Tuesday market since 2009.

"It's the social event of the summer," she said.

The couple sells many of the photographs to tourists, second homeowners or anyone remembering they have that "empty wall."

No concern of empty slots at the markets. An abundance of vendors is on hand every week.

Opinion: America's decline is relative but real

By Manlio Graziano

Is the United States in decline? The debate on the subject lacks content and context. To take the conversation about American decline away from arbitrary and subjective claims, we require an indisputable criterion. And the only criterion that really counts in international relations is comparison: How does the United States stack up as compared to other powers?

By that measure, the United States has been in relative decline since at least the 1960s. Yes, the economic strength of America has grown, and continues to grow, in absolute terms. But its rivals and competitors—China, East Asia, Europe, Latin America—have grown at a stronger and more sustained rate.

This is the nature of relative decline: power in the world is a finite quantity (even if power is expanding), so the greater the power of others, the more the power of the United States decreases. Between 1940 and 2014, in terms of gross national product, the United States grew 12.5 times bigger. But the rest of the world has grown 26 times in gross product—more than double than that of the Americans.

Much of that gap in growth is from recent decades. In 1987, when Yale historian Paul Kennedy published his famous book “The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers” (which inaugurated the debate on American decline), the gap between U.S. and global growth was barely perceptible: Since 1940, U.S. GDP had grown six times in size, while the rest of the world’s GDP had grown seven and a half times. This slight difference did not prevent Kennedy from identifying the phenomenon with precision.

One can reasonably ask whether the growth differential of GDP can, by itself, give an account of the decline of a country, especially when it is only relative. Many other elements should be taken into account when comparing powers: variable economic factors, such as access to raw materials and their price; transport, research and development, productivity, finance, trade, investment; and then geography, military strength, demography, health conditions, education, the solidity of institutions, political stability. Finally, there are factors that are unmeasurable, but no less important: historical heritage, traditions, social psychology, ideologies, and religions.

Paul Kennedy wrote that, in examining the last five centuries of history, some “generally valid” conclusions can be drawn. The first is that there is a relationship between relative decline in economic power and shifts in the international political system.

The U.S. situation can be seen more clearly in this historical context. The country, said Kennedy, made “a vast array of

strategic commitments” when the nation’s political, economic, and military capacity, as well as its ability to influence world affairs, was more assured than it was in 1987. The United States thus faced what Kennedy called “imperial overstretch,” with its obligations and interests adding up to more than its capacity. That’s a characteristic of relative decline.

Kennedy is sometimes dismissed because his predictions of American decline were based on the rise of Japan, and Japan’s rise was later impeded by its decades of stagnation. Still, this doesn’t undermine Kennedy’s historical analysis of decline. In more recent years, other voices have echoed him. In 2008, in its four-year report on international trends, the U.S. National Intelligence Council wrote that “owing to the relative decline of its economic, and to the lesser extent, the military power, the United States will no longer have the same flexibility in choosing as many policy options” as it once had.

In writing about relative decline, Kennedy took up again a concept formulated by political scientist Robert Gilpin: that over time, different levels of growth in power within a system eventually cause a fundamental redistribution of power within the system itself. State Department official Richard Haass later used that very same conclusion in order to argue that the United States needed to be ahead of the game so that any “new” balance of power in the world can be balanced from the United States’ perspective.

That argument has in turn been used to justify—and to explain—the theory of “preventive war,” applied later in Iraq. In one 2011 study, Paul MacDonald and Joseph Parent argued that there are only two possibilities to deal with “a decline in relative power”: retrenchment or preventive war. The authors defined retrenchment as “redistributing away from peripheral commitments and towards core commitments” for the purpose of “economizing expenditures, reducing risks, and

shifting burdens.”

But in the history of the United States, there is also a third possibility for responding to decline, embodied today by Donald Trump: isolationism.

Isolationism is not retrenchment, since retrenchment distinguishes between “peripheral commitments” and “core commitments.” Retrenchment is not therefore a matter of abandoning the commitments, but of making choices, however painful, on the basis of a well-defined political strategy. In Henry Kissinger’s words, “to find a sustainable ground between abdication and overextension.” The difference between retrenchment and isolationism is the difference between ordered retreat and a catastrophic rout.

Isolationism in the United States today is fueled by fear of worsening conditions. A fundamental misunderstanding of the world has led many people to believe that the United States is being plotted against externally and betrayed internally. But such fears and such misunderstandings are not the product of Trump and his ideologues. Indeed, these fears, particularly around globalization, were cooked up in the intellectual laboratories of the far left in the late 1990s and brought to the public square by the Seattle protestors against free trade in 1999. A matrix of isolationism and *petit-bourgeois* anti-capitalism has always been found in Jeffersonian democracy, passing through Andrew Jackson, the 19th-century populist movement, and the Catholic critics of the far right and far left during the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Trump’s isolationism predates Trump. It’s a product of the end of the Cold War, when many Americans believed the time had come to finally “return to normalcy” and retreat to their island to enjoy the dividends of victory. In the 1990s, the United States refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, to participate in the treaty to ban anti-personnel mines and nuclear experiments, or to vote for the creation of

the International Criminal Court. Before Sept. 11, George W. Bush was openly isolationist and unilateralist, proclaiming his intention to withdraw the United States from some of the institutions it had created and which had guaranteed the continuity of its world order.

Sept. 11 and its aftermath suspended this isolationist tendency only temporarily. The anxieties from the 2008 economic crisis, multiplied by the harmful effects of reckless interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, have restored it. During the presidency of Barack Obama, the United States adopted 317 protectionist measures on average each year—representing 20 percent of all trade restrictions adopted in the world, almost six times more than the second most protectionist country, India. And during the 2016 election campaign, both candidates called for the withdrawal of the United States from new strategic free trade treaties in the Pacific and the Atlantic.

The idea of “making America great again” is absurd. History does not walk backwards. When Americans talk of their greatness, they generally think of a bygone era in which their country dominated the economic, political, and military balances of the world, solitary and undisputed. It also was a time when unparalleled material superiority fueled their alleged moral superiority. Many of the most dramatic mistakes made by the United States during the Cold War derived from exactly this sense of moral superiority, and the corresponding conviction that Americans could shape reality without taking into account the annoying tangible and intangible constraints that exist in the real world. The absence of historical depth that characterizes the American ideology, combined with the rootlessness and the heterogeneity of the population, allows Americans to believe that the recipes that were successfully applied in the past—like deficit spending and protectionism—are reproducible under any circumstances.

Neo-Keynesians, for example, argue that they can overturn

current trends by restoring the New Deal recipe of deficit spending, as though this were 1929. But public debt has changed with the times. Before the Great Depression began in 1929, the American public debt amounted to 16 percent of GDP. In 1941, it had reached 45 percent; in 2008, during the recession, the public debt was 68 percent of GDP; at the end of Barack Obama's tenure, it was at 106.7 percent.

Today, the United States seeks to make itself great again on credit: In 2017, of the \$20.245 billion of debt, almost one third (\$6.349 billion) was in the hands of foreign governments—including Beijing (\$1.189 billion) and Tokyo (\$1.094 billion). In other words, in 2017 China and Japan funded more than 10 percent of U.S. public spending.

And yes, while the United States has been protectionist for most of its short history, and had great success under protectionism, that does not mean that today protectionism is a policy that could make the country great again. In a world of more shared power, where growth is based on the exchange of raw materials, financial products, ideas, and people, almost every type of production is linked by a thousand threads to the world market, and breaking one means breaking them all.

What gets left out of these protectionist discussions is that now, even the making of a hamburger—which involves cultivation, storage, transport, refining, production, packaging, and distribution—ties together 75 centers of activity from 15 different countries. According to a Boston Consulting Group report from 2017, an attack on NAFTA would be primarily an attack on the United States, given the country's economic integration with its neighbors. Gordon Hanson of the University of California stated that if NAFTA had not existed, the entire American automotive industry would have already disappeared, swept away by competition from countries with lower wages, social protection, and public deficits.

In the future, Americans will no longer be able to afford to

live as they have lived in the past. Such a reality has caused disquiet in all countries that once dominated world markets. But the anxiety has been much more intense in the United States, whose brief history has been marked by the promise, almost always maintained, of a constant improvement of the living conditions of most of its citizens.

Kissinger wrote that the art of demagoguery consists of the "ability to distill emotion and frustration into a single moment." But demagoguery cannot solve its problems; it only will aggravate them. In July 1971, when President Richard Nixon took note that the United States was no longer in a position of complete pre-eminence, he was merely stating the obvious: that international relations are always multipolar. The question is the relative strength of the poles of power, and today, the relative strength of those poles is shifting at rapid pace. The distance between the United States and the rest of the world continues to shorten. According to the IMF World Economic Outlook of October 2017, the pace of growth of the so-called emerging countries (4.3 percent in 2016, 4.6 percent in 2017, and 4.9 percent in 2018) is more than double that of the United States (1.8, 2.1, and 2.3 percent). China's growth is about three times higher (6.7, 6.8, and 6.5 percent).

There is no general law establishing how, when—and if—a country in relative decline enters a phase of absolute decline. And theoretically, at least, since decline is relative, it could reverse. Fareed Zakaria has argued that the world is becoming more "post-American" not because of the United States' failures, but because of "the rise of everyone else." If China or India or Germany were to enter a deep crisis, the United States could quickly be in a state of relative rise. But that presumes that the United States would not itself be infected by a deep crisis in the other powers. And such a prospect is very unlikely.

It is much more plausible that America will continue its

relative decline, and will thus be obliged to surrender some of its global commitments and interests, creating imbalances in different places. Of course, things would be far worse if the United States were to withdraw from all commitments and interests in one fell swoop.

Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. If America were to abandon the field, it would create a kind of black hole, into which all the world would be drawn. America's insular illusions would soon be overwhelmed by the tsunami of disruption. Such an uproar would turn today's relative decline into absolute decline; it would mean, in the worlds of Bismarck, a "suicide from fear of death."

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Inside the \$4.1B Calif. measure to fix parks, waterways

By Kurtis Alexander, San Francisco Chronicle

A far-reaching measure before California voters in June would authorize the state to borrow \$4.1 billion for investments in outdoor recreation, land conservation and water projects. But Proposition 68, which needs a simple majority vote to pass, is not your typical water and parks bond measure.

The proposition steers clear of flashy, big-ticket items like new dams and major state park expansions. Instead, it favors upgrading smaller neighborhood parks, protecting local greenways and open space and cleaning up polluted riverbanks and groundwater supplies, largely in urban and suburban areas.

[Read the whole story](#)

Backcountry skier rescued near Mt. Rose

By Jenny Kane, Reno Gazette-Journal

An injured backcountry skier was rescued near the Mt. Rose summit on Saturday evening, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office reported.

Just before 5:30pm, the sheriff's office dispatched its Raven helicopter crew and search and rescue team to assist the North Lake Tahoe Fire Department in retrieving the a woman with a leg injury.

[Read the whole story](#)