

Tahoe National Forest implementing fire restrictions

Fire restrictions will go into effect July 11 within the Tahoe National Forest.

Restrictions include:

- No open fires, campfires or charcoal fires are allowed on Tahoe National Forest lands outside of designated areas, even with a valid California Campfire Permit, except within the oven at Wheeler Sheep Camp.
- Lanterns and portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed, unless otherwise restricted, with a valid California Campfire Permit available from Forest Service offices during business hours.
- No possessing or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device, including explosives.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or designated recreation site.
- Internal combustion engines are restricted to National Forest System roads, trails, and areas, as identified on the Tahoe National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (including the Prosser Pits Developed Off-Highway Vehicle Area). Motorized cross-country travel between roads, trails, and areas is prohibited.

Complete details regarding 2016 fire restrictions, including the list of designated recreation sites, will be available by July 11 on the Tahoe National Forest **website**.

Those with a valid 2016 wood cutting permit must obey fire restrictions and cut firewood in compliance with the terms of their permit.

Trio offers healing to lovers and misfits



Laura Veirs, k.d. lang and Neko Case delight a full house July 7 at Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater in Reno. Photo/LTN

By Kim Wyatt

RENO – That voice.

Legendary vocalist k.d. lang stole the show at a revelatory concert under the stars Thursday night in Reno. Lang, touring with Neko Case and Laura Veirs, blew away a sold-out crowd with an intimate, powerful performance at the Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater at Bartley Ranch Regional Park.

The concert on July 7 was part of the Artown citywide arts festival that lasts through the month of July.

The 16-song set, followed by two encores, featured songs from the newly formed supergroup's June 17 release, "case/lang/veirs." A playful lang led veteran musicians Case and Veirs through love lost and found, howling dervishes and do-wop with swagger, all while barefoot in what looked like very comfortable dark pajamas. Although the stage, a simple backdrop of the album cover artwork by Elliott Green, was designed to be egalitarian, highlighting the collaboration as well as each of the musician's oeuvres, a charismatic lang easily commanded the crowd.

"We're going to lay a little healing on you, 'cause we all need it right now," lang said, kicking off the concert. Song after song showcased the strengths of each performer: lang crushed it on a cover of Neil Young's "Helpless," casting a spell as the moon rose and bats flitted in and out of trees. The alchemic Case brought the crowd to its feet with the hit "Man" from her latest album. Folk artist Veirs was the workhorse of the group, a guitar in hand for each number. New to me, Veirs'-led songs, like "Best-Kept Secret," are deceptively simple toe-tappers, yet complete stories. Although the women co-wrote all 14 songs and share lead vocals on their excellent debut album, Veirs received co-songwriting credit on every song. So while lang's vocals and Case's metaphors captivate, perhaps Veirs keeps the wheels on the bus.

One song I won't soon forget is "Blue Fire," named after the hottest part of a flame. No one does unrequited love like lang. In full crooner mode, she lets loose a honeyed voice that penetrates your chest and makes you want to break your own heart so you can feel that deeply again.

The intimate setting at the amphitheater complemented the show, with mountains and big sky the backdrop. So many of the songs had celestial themes, with stars, sky and constellations

anchoring heartbreaking lyrics. If you're going to have big emotions in public, this is a good place to do it.

Their trio's top-notch band—Johnny Sangster on guitar, Lex Price on bass, Barbara Gruska on drums and keyboardist Steve Moore—provided a formidable and rich counterpart; at times I looked for instrument that weren't there. The band elevated the trio's vocals, and when their harmonies worked, they really worked. One could see why Lang invited Case and Veirs to make an album and take their show on the road.

The earnest opening act, Loch Lomond, hit the jackpot when invited to open for the super group. The vibe at the amphitheater was pleasant, and the food great, especially a vegetarian taco platter and cheese plate that I would order at a restaurant. Let's hope the Collaboration Catering works out the bugs and returns.

The concert ended with the controlled chaos and wild vocals of "Georgia Stars." Two encores later, the concert ended in exactly the right place, with "I Want to Be Here," paean to the world's artists and misfits: lovely, hopeful and musically interesting. Lang introduced the song by acknowledging the shooting of Philando Castile. The world is a terrible place today, she said, and then offered this tender number as atonement.

We're a long way from healing. But musicians like Lang, Case and Veirs are doing something about it, bringing us together to share what's broken inside and out. And they're doing it beautifully under the stars.

*Kim Wyatt is the owner of **Bona Fide Books**.*

Letter: SLT proud of parade success

To the community,

The city of South Lake Tahoe hosted its first 4th of July parade. There were 78 vehicles and approximately 200 people either walking, biking, or dancing. American Legion Post 795 served as the parade marshals.

The city of South Lake Tahoe would like to say “thank you” to all the parade participants, businesses and volunteers for making the 4th of July parade a fantastic community event.

The following current and former U.S. Armed Forces members participated in the 4th of July parade:

- Naval Air Station – Fallon and the Nevada Army Guard Unit
- American Legion Post 795 members; Cmdr. Matt Panks, Judge Advocate John Lingar, Chaplain Curt Emre and past Cmdr. Blair Clark.
- Veterans Karl Johnson, Orly Larson, Gary Norton, Daniel Boone, Alan Morse, Joe Morse, James Taylor, Pat Maliska, Lee Maliska, Ed Pyre, Michael Varich, Adrianna Voss, Dennis Merritt, Dana Buschini, Gert Lehman, Bill Malloy and gold star families..

There were multiple community volunteers and the parade would not have been possible without all their efforts.

Dreu Murin served as the parade emcee. Tahoe Production House provided a live stream video of the parade. Once the recorded link is available it will be provided.

Below is a list of all parade participants and businesses:

Adrianna Voss, Army

Air Drum Band

Alan Morse, veteran

Alana Sanchez

Allen Yahar

American Legion Post 795

American Red Cross Emergency Vehicle

American Red Cross-Disaster Action Team

Big 5

Bill Malloy, veteran

Blair Clark, veteran

Briana Biller

Brooke Laine

California Colors Auto Body and Towing

California Conservation Corps

California Highway Patrol

Carol & David Reed

Christmas Cheer All Year

Cindi Archer

City of South lake Tahoe Public Works

Convertible with Roberta B & Shellie M

Councilmember Hal Cole

Councilmember Tom Davis

Curt Emre, veteran

Dana Buschini, veteran

Daniel Boone, veteran

Dennis Merritt, veteran

Diane Roeser-Kinney

Don & Jennifer Johnson

Don Sharp (vintage truck)

Dreu Murin

Ed Pyre, veteran

El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel

Emerald Bay Towing/Pop Warner Football

Everything Tahoe.com

Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department

Family Resource Center

First Baptist Church

Gary Norton, veteran

Gert Lehman

Gold Star Families – Patty Smith

Hi Lo's 4 WD Club

Jackie Durham

James Taylor, veteran

Jennifer Scanio

Jerry & Jill Carter

Jill Sharlow

Joe Morse, veteran

John Lingar, veteran

Karl Johnson, veteran

Kenny Curtzwiler, veteran

Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Lake Tahoe Presbyterian Church

Lake Valley Fire District

Lakeview Thrift Store

Lauren Thomaselli

Lee Maliska, veteran

Liberty Energy

LTCC Soccer Team

Matt Olivares

Matt Panks, veteran

Maureen Stuhlman

Mayor Pro Tem Austin Sass

Mayor Wendy David

Michael Varich, veteran

Michelle Daniels

Michelle Yahar

Nancy Dalton, for college board

Nancy Kerry

Naval Air Station – Fallon

Nevada Army Guard Unit

Orly Larson, ceteran

Pat Maliska, veteran

Phil Blowney

Philip Graber, veteran

Rick Wood

Rosemary Manning

Ross Groelz DDS

Safu & the Clowns Army

Sami Miller

Sheriff Search and Rescue

Sheriff Team of Active Retirees

SISLT, A Fighting Chance

SITS

South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue

South Lake Tahoe Police Department

South Lake Tahoe Senior Citizens Center

South Tahoe Refuse and Recycling

Susie Alessi, city clerk

Sutter Capital Group

Swim for Africa

Swim for Africa

Tahoe Asphalt Inc.

Tahoe Derby Dames

Tahoe Production House

Tahoe Rentals LLC

US Bank

US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

The 4th of July parade was an opportunity to honor our local veterans and as a fundraiser for the American Legion Post 795. To date \$700 has been raised and they are continuing to accept donations.

Tracy Franklin, South Lake Tahoe public information officer

**Youth tennis lessons
available at ZCTC**



Deanne Larsell, teaching pro at Zephyr Cove Tennis club, shows Lisa Schumacher and Jamie Lowe how to volley. Photo/Carolyn E. Wright

The youth of Lake Tahoe can help break in the newly resurfaced courts at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club by participating in the July-August junior program.

Longtime teaching professional Deanne Larsell plans to keep groups small to provide more individualized instruction.

Beginner and advanced beginner classes are available for those in grades 1-8. Each four-day, one-hour group lesson costs \$45 per player. For information on scholarships, email carolyn@zctennis.com.

For specific dates-times and to register, go **online**.

A limited number of rackets will be available for those who need one. Come dressed to play – which means athletic wear and non-marking shoes. Bring water and wear sunscreen. Arrive 15 minutes before the start time.

TAMBA building trails, raising money

Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association is having a trail building day July 9.

From 9am to 3pm crews will be helping to build the new Kingsbury Stinger Trail. Work will be on a new section of trail about one half mile from the trailhead.

Meet at 9am at the end of North Benjamin/Andria Drive (Tahoe Rim Trail's Kingsbury North trailhead).

Lunch will be provided by Base Camp Pizza and there will be a post work barbecue.

Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and long sleeves. Helmets will be required; a bike helmet counts. Bring water and a bike to test ride after.

That night a 8 will be a TAMBA fundraising part at Chimayo Street Grill on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe. Money is being raised for a new trail system at Fallen Leaf Lake and Angora Ridge to be built in the near future.

Chimayó will donate 15 percent of all sales to help build the new trails. And all donations from the night will be matched.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Tahoe Transportation District are seeking more ideas from the public about how to improve Lake Tahoe's transportation system to reduce traffic congestion. Materials presented at the May open

houses are available **online**. A short questionnaire is there as well.

- Nevada Department of Transportation is having an open house about the demonstration project for the Stateline-to-Stateline bike trail on July 26 from 4-7pm. There will be a presentation at 5:30pm. This is at the Chateau in Incline Village.

- If you need to borrow a kid's life jacket for the day or weekend, go **online** to Boat U.S. Foundation to find a loaner jacket site.

- The Meyers office of the California Highway Patrol is putting on "coffee with a cop" on July 22 starting at 9am at Woodfords Station. The goal is to provide a relaxed setting for one-on-one interactions between community members and officers.

- The Brewery Arts Center on July 9 will be the site of a free outdoor concert starting at 7pm with Empty Wallets and at 8pm is Dangermuffiin.

Commission denies Martis Valley West project

By Kathryn Reed

In a split vote, the Placer County Planning Commission said no to the developer who wants to build 760 units on 6.6 acres near Brockway Summit.

Sierra Pacific Industries owns the land, with Mountainside Partners the developers. The development would be just outside

the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Commissioners on July 7 voted 5-2 to deny the project. Their biggest issues were traffic and evacuation plans in the event of a fire or similar emergency.

This meeting was a continuation of the June meeting that was also standing room only and a bit contentious. People had signs that read "Deny Martis Valley West."

Only the developer, their reps and county staff spoke in favor of the project.

"The Martis Valley West project reflects a truly unique combined conservation and development plan that relocates future development to an area adjacent to existing development, significantly reduces the amount of allowable development and serves to complete a remarkable conservation vision," Blake Riva, managing partner with Mountainside Partners, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We believe the project should be approved based on its merits. We look forward to the Martis Valley West project proceeding to a vote of the Placer County Board of Supervisors later this summer."

The ultimate decision will be up to the Board of Supervisors. A meeting date has not been set.

"Today's vote is great news for everyone who loves Tahoe" Tom Mooers of Sierra Watch said in a press release. "It's not necessarily the end of the road for the project, but it's a clear indication that it has no place in North Lake Tahoe."

This has been a closely watched project by people in Lake Tahoe even though the project is in Truckee's boundaries. Highway 267 is a link between the two areas and is already congested.

Besides more vehicles on the roads, air quality is another concern. So is the ability to get to safety in the event of an

emergency.

First responders who spoke had some concerns about the ability to get everyone out.

“There’s no question in my mind that first responders can pull off an evacuation of any area in the basin if they were called to do so,” said John McEldowney, program manager for the Placer County Office of Emergency Services. “I’m not saying it’s going to go perfectly, but I have full confidence in our first responders to get it done.”

The League to Save Lake Tahoe has come out against the project.

“A vote to approve this project is a vote against the lake,” Shannon Eckmeyer with the League to Save Lake Tahoe told commissioners.

Many would like the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to weigh in even though it is outside its jurisdiction. This is because the project will impact the basin.

Politics of gaming to highlight Global Gaming Expo

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

When the doors open to the world’s largest gaming convention in September in Las Vegas, it should come as no surprise that politics will be high on people’s minds.

The three-day Global Gaming Expo, known in the industry as G2E, begins at the Sands Expo and Convention Center on Sept.

27, about three weeks before Las Vegas hosts its first-ever presidential debate and five weeks before voters go to the polls to select a new president.

Where the candidates stand on gaming industry issues will be a prime topic at the convention and trade show, which is expected to attract more than 26,000 people from around the world.

For Geoff Freeman, president and CEO of the sponsoring American Gaming Association, the politics of gaming will be one of many highlights for the show, which is getting an overhaul of sorts.

Read the whole story

Star Guide: Telescopes bring depth to cosmos



The globular
cluster M13.
Photo/Ryan
Berendsen

By Tony Berendsen

Stargazing with the unaided eye provides a spectacular view of the cosmos. The broad vista our eyes give us yields a multitude of stars, the Milky Way's hazy band, and maybe an occasional meteor. It's breathtaking, but even though it is a four-dimensional view, the unaided glance seems very two-dimensional; a small telescope or binoculars can add depth.

Gaze through a small aperture telescope or a astronomy binoculars and the moon's grey tones transform into features of craters and mountains. The planet Jupiter at 500 million miles becomes an "other world", a strange distant place with the four large Galilean moons locked in eternal dance about the great planet. Saturn at 800 million miles shows its rings, and the star-like point of light we know as the moon Titan stands near.

Those views begin to tell the story of distance and time, but are in close proximity and only in terms of millions of miles and minutes and hours of time.

It is viewing deep space objects beyond the grasp of our sun's influence that begin to give real depth and perspective to our surroundings. We live in a galaxy thousands of light years across. It's a big place populated by billions of stars with an untold number of undiscovered places. The distances to them are immense.

Albireo is a famous double star that marks the beak of Cygnus the Swan. It's located high in the sky within the summer triangle and easily found using an astronomy app in dark skies. It's a beautiful color combination with one star sapphire blue and the other amber red, and best viewed with a telescope. Both are located about 380 light years from the Earth, taking the distance and time aspect of our view to a much greater magnitude. Imagine those two beautiful stars are 380 years back in time.

The Cygnus Star Cloud resides in the same area of the sky, but

is more distant and incredibly massive. It contains some of the largest molecular gas clouds found in the galaxy. Binoculars will yield the best view, so find a comfortable spot to lay down and scan the sky throughout the constellation of Cygnus and you will be amazed at the number of stars concentrated in this area. The distances vary to the stars in this region because you are looking at the edge of one of the spiral arms of our galaxy, but are in the realm of 1,600 light years.

Last but not least, point your telescope or binoculars to the keystone center of the constellation Hercules to find the great globular cluster M13. Again, an astronomy app such as **SkyPortal** will help point the way. In the mid-summer this object is straight up so lay down again with the binoculars and look carefully between two of the stars in the keystone for a small fuzzy object. You are seeing a hundred thousand stars in that fuzzy ball of light that is 25,000 light years in the distance and 25,000 years back in time at the fringes of our own galaxy. A small telescope will begin to resolve some individual stars of this massive formation too.

Of course imagination is the ultimate tool to use for appreciation of the distances to objects seen in our galaxy through telescopes and binoculars. Think of the distances in terms of time. It takes light one year to travel 6 trillion miles. A trillion miles is a distance so large it's very difficult to imagine, instead imagine that Albireo's light began its trip to us about the same time Galileo was convicted of heresy for his belief that the Earth revolved around the sun. Imagine what the Earth was like 25,000 years ago.

Tony Berendsen runs Tahoe Star Tours. He may be reached at 775.232.0844 or tony@tahoestartours.com.

SLT on quest to redefine itself via recreation



This is a rendering of the preferred alternative for Regan Beach. Drawing/Design Workshop

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – People need to decide if they want the status quo or to make the investment.

That was the overriding message South Lake Tahoe City Manager Nancy Kerry delivered July 6 to Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe.

Pictures told the story as much as her words. A collage of where the city has been, where it is and where it could go filled the screen.

She is a proponent of doing things and not just developing a plan that sits on a shelf. Kerry also credited leaders in the city and community, as well as partner agencies for helping

create a vision for what the South Shore as a whole can become.

The city is on the cusp of truly embracing recreation as its economic engine. To do so will require more investment in infrastructure. It has started to do so by adding playfields near Lake Tahoe Community College that will be ready for action in a year.

Two major improvements would be replacing the more than 30-year-old recreation center and overhauling Regan Beach. The community has weighed-in at multiple meetings about each site to the point conceptual drawings have been developed and preliminary budgets sketched. It could take \$30 million to build the rec center people envision.

It would be twice the size of what is there now. This would include four basketball courts that could be transformed into meeting space, a new swim center that offers activities for all ages – and not just serious swimmers, exercise equipment not held together by duct tape, a bay door that would open to outdoor recreation, and more.

There is also talk of having the local Boys & Girls Club be partners so those youth would have a place to play.

The renderings Kerry provided are like nothing that is currently available in the basin. It would be state-of-the-art, with modern technology, aesthetics that are modern and mountain, and functionality for a variety of sports.

To pay for it the city is putting a tax proposal on the Nov. 8 ballot to raise the hotel tax by 2 percentage points. The local lodging association group already backs this idea.

The caveat is that the additional money raised will go toward recreation – and only recreation. It will take 66 percent of the voters to make this happen.

The city would then seek bonds to actually pay for the rec center, with the transient occupancy tax paying that debt.

If voters say yes, construction could begin in 2018. It would likely be a two-year build-out.

Also to be funded from the TOT hike would be Regan Beach.