

Track camp in South Lake Tahoe

Sports Fitness Track & Field Camp is July 5-13 from 9am-noon in South Lake Tahoe.

Anthony Davis the coach.

The registration fee is \$150. Camp T-shirt is \$14.

Go online to register.

Luxury market allows some to dream, others to snag a deal

By Linda Fine Conaboy

Just when you thought the economy was soon to be irretrievably annihilated, along comes Chase International Realty with some eye-popping homes, definitely worth a look-see.

“The luxury home market is now showing fantastic opportunity for buyers,” said Shari Chase, as she greeted people at one of the Glenbrook properties her company has for sale. “Values are the most compelling that we’ve seen in more than 10 years.”

The company has corralled a herd of high-end beauties, which it trotted out for all to see Wednesday during its annual Lakefront and Luxury Estates Tour.



This
beachfront
house on the
South Shore is
selling for
\$2.1 million.
Photos/Provide
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Sounding an equally optimistic note, Sue Lowe, Chase vice-president/corporate broker, is cautiously happy about what she sees as a re-emerging market.

"We're starting to see a change, not dramatic, but it is picking up," she told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We've had, so far this year on the Eastern Shore alone, five lakeside properties close, ranging in price from \$2.2 million to \$9.4 million. Last year at this time, we only had two properties close in the same price range.

"We're seeing a slow, steady, increase in interest," she said. "The luxury buyer is slowly re-entering the market place, taking advantage of some very good pricing and indicating some stabilization in this market."

Lowe said she's not expecting a huge rebound in the future, but a slow and steady climb. "Although some of the properties have been deeply discounted, especially the short sales – they're distressed, definitely."

While there are not as many distressed properties in the luxury market now, Lowe did say one of Chase's recent listings

was on the market only three weeks, but another lingered for three years.

What several million dollars can buy

Although time did not allow *Lake Tahoe News* to preview all 32 homes for sale, we had the opportunity to tour four of them, starting with a home on the West Shore, about 10 minutes south of Tahoe City, listed for \$24.9 million.

As we walked up the circular, heated driveway, we passed a four-car garage and entered the grand portico through oversized, etched doors, where our eyes were immediately drawn beyond the huge curved windows to 175 feet of Lake Tahoe shoreline, the pier, three slips, a 12,000 pound lift and a buoy.

This home is designed by Nick Kromydas and was constructed by Loverde Builders in 2001. The windows were built in Nevada City, taking more than a year to finish. The ceilings are 25 feet high.

Here, five bedrooms are divided into three suites in the main house and two in the attached guest apartment, separated with a hallway and a private entrance. Without the four-car garage, the home contains 12,250 square feet.

The living room, office, master suite, second-floor nine-seat theater and two additional bedroom suites are carpeted, while the rest of the home is covered with quartzite flooring.

There's a wine cellar and tasting room as well as a kitchen fully populated with commercial-grade Viking appliances. The kitchen leads to the family room with a large wet-bar and not far away is the cherry-paneled office featuring a gas fireplace and more lovely lake views. In fact, you will be hard pressed to find a room in this house without a view of either the lake or the exquisite grounds surrounding the more than 3-acre lot.

South Shore luxury

Across the lake, this West Shore beauty has a little brother on the South Shore, offered at \$2.1 million. While not a grand residence, the juxtaposition between the two is striking. This home, built in 1950, is situated on Jameson Beach, not far from the Beacon Restaurant.

It sits on more than one-third acre with 50 feet of lakefront in close proximity to its front door. Its 70-foot pier extends deeply into the lake with two buoys beyond. You might call it an old-style residence, full of knotty pine paneling, steep stairs leading to the second story, big picture window with full lake views and a beach to make sun worshipers sing songs of praise. The fully-gated lot is landscaped with lots of tall pines to ensure its privacy.

What's unique about this property is the fact that this gorgeous old home could be demolished to make way for up to a 4,000-square-foot home. There's enough land to accommodate a large residence, although it would be sad to rid the lake of one of its early beauties.

In Glenbrook, Chase offers two homes full of history, dating back to 1863. These reminders of Glenbrook's lumbering era have been fully-restored and are actually a part of the original Glenbrook Inn.

The first home, on the banks of Glenbrook Creek, played host to the likes of Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain and maybe even Clark Gable. According to Chase, Glenbrook was a great spot for a six-week Nevada quickie divorce in the "olden" days.

The first home is listed at \$3.75 million. It sits, like its neighbor, also for sale, directly across the road from the Glenbrook homeowners' pier. There's a covered patio and porch, hot tub, family room with a wet bar, an open living room, a spacious master suite upstairs as well as two baths and a bonus room on the third floor.

The second property, next door, dates back to 1906. It's a Cape Cod-style residence, recently remodeled, including four stories, five bedrooms, three-plus baths and lots of decking.

This home is selling for \$3.8 million.

Using what nature provides

On to the North Shore, Dan Schwartz is listing a casual, but still elegant home at 30 Crystal Drive in Incline Village, where huge boulders seem to have found a convenient resting place inside.

According to Schwartz, Crystal Bay/Incline Village is known for its large rocks. Instead of removing them from the property, the builder incorporated them into the home's décor, upstairs and downstairs, making a definite and absolutely unique Tahoe statement of elegance.

This two-story manse sits just above the lake, where paths lead to its swimming deck and boat dock. There's 80 feet of shoreline incorporated into this parcel, which is nearly a half-acre in size.

In addition to the boulders, the designer integrated large, exposed lodge pole pines into the home's structural design, stating loudly and clearly "this is a Tahoe house." It features five bedrooms, more than five baths in more than 6,000 square feet of living area. There's a workout room, three-car tandem garage and a boat hoist. The home is listed at \$7.2 million.

As Lowe said, "There's only one Lake Tahoe. We have very limited growth here, but there's now opportunity to be able to afford to play and live in Lake Tahoe."

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Power restored to South Tahoe, Truckee

Updated June 30 6am: Power was restored to South Tahoe customers before 10pm Wednesday, Liberty Energy said. An outage in Glenshire affecting 200 customers on Somerset Drive and Donnington Lane near Truckee was fixed about 2am Thursday.

Nearly 3,300 Liberty Energy customers in South Lake Tahoe had been without power since a little after 5pm Wednesday.

A private tree trimmer dropped a limb on a power line, causing the outage, according to Randy Kelly with Liberty Energy.

The customers are in the Y area of town.

Kelly said crews are at the property trying to fix the problem. Some customers should have power by 7:30pm, with others coming back online gradually.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Door-to-door salespeople becoming more aggressive

Washoe County sheriff's deputies have been dispatched to several calls regarding door-to-door solicitation. Solicitors have been reported selling magazine subscriptions, household cleaners, and residential security systems. Some solicitors

have been reported as being extremely aggressive.

On June 27 at approximately 3pm, concerned residents in the area of West Hidden Valley Drive and Mira Loma Drive called deputies in regards to magazine solicitors. Deputies contacted Sarah Proffitt, 27, of Sandy Ridge, N.C., Aaron Marcus, 24, of Richmond, Va., and Daniel Carlsen, 25, of Chicago. Not one had the proper license or work permit required and were subsequently arrested and transported to the Washoe County Detention Facility. All three subjects face charges of traveling merchant without a license and required work permit.

Deputies also contacted Michael Bailey, 31, of Willis, Texas. Bailey reportedly told deputies he transported the three subjects to the area in order to sell magazines. He was arrested on charges of an outstanding warrant and being in possession of marijuana.

There have been numerous door-to-door scams as well as burglaries possibly connected to solicitors casing neighborhoods. In the past, the vast majority of solicitors who have been contacted are not residents of Washoe County nor do they live in Nevada.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office offers these tips when dealing with solicitors:

- * If you do not know the person, do not open your door. Don't feel obligated to greet the unfamiliar person knocking at your door.
- * If you are not interested in the item being offered, simply close the door and lock it. You do not owe the person an explanation.
- * Stand in front of your home and see what is visible from the street. If you can see your valuable items through the front windows, so can potential burglars.

* Always keep doors and windows locked. Storm doors or security doors are helpful when dealing with solicitors because you can see and speak safely through the door. Never allow an unfamiliar person into your house.

* Call your local law enforcement agency if a solicitor is aggressively attempting to gain access into your home and/or refusing to show proper identification.

* If you see criminal or suspicious activity, call our non-emergency dispatch at (775) 832.9276.

BMX event in South Tahoe

South Lake Tahoe BMX hosts the Northern California State Championship Qualifier July 10.

This American Bicycle Association sanctioned event begins at 12:30pm, with sign up between 10 and 11:30am.

The cost is \$25 per rider. Spectators are free.

The track is at 1100 Lyons Ave.

All ages and abilities may participate. Trophies are awarded to the top 3 riders in each class.

For more information, call (530) 542.9337.

USFS plans 2 days of prescribed burns in basin

U.S. Forest Service fuels management crews will conduct prescribed fire operations June 30 on Kingsbury Grade and in Rubicon Bay.

The Kingsbury Grade operation near North Benjamin is approximately 2 acres and is expected to last through Thursday.

The Rubicon Bay operation is approximately 1 acre and is also expected to last through Thursday.

All prescribed fire operations are dependent on weather and available staffing.

Residents and visitors can expect to see smoke from prescribed fire project areas. Smoke management is part of every prescribed fire burn plan, and efforts will be taken to reduce actual or potential smoke impacts on community areas.

Black Bear Inn winemaker dinners

Black Bear Inn in South Lake Tahoe is offering two winemaker dinners in July.

Dobra Zemlja Vineyards will be highlighted July 13 and Jeff Runquist Wines will be featured July 27. Both wineries are in Amador County.

Each dinner will consist of six courses prepared by the inn's chef, Alex Elsaesser. A wine will be chosen by the winemaker to complement each course.

The cost \$65 per person. Reservations are necessary. For more information, go online.

Lego exhibit at Carson City kids' museum

The Children's Museum in Carson City is exhibiting The Art of the Brick – Nathan Sawaya's Lego creations.

This New York-based artist has three unique exhibitions created solely from standard Legos. New sculptures are created specifically for each exhibition. Each show has nearly 1 million colorful Lego pieces transformed into whimsical and awe-inspiring creations.

"These works are very personal to me, since they reflect my growth as an artist as I strove to discover my creative identity," Sawaya said in a statement. "The museum exhibition is accessible because it engages the child in all of us while simultaneously illuminating sophisticated and complex concepts. Everyone can relate to the medium since it is a toy that many children have at home. But I want to elevate this simple plaything to a place it has never been before."

The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada is located at 813 N. Carson St., Carson City. Call (775) 884.2226 for details and prices. The museum is open daily from 10am-4:30pm.

Nathan Owens Motown After Dark

Nathan Owens Motown After Dark is Aug. 26-28 and Sept. 1-3 in the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Cost is \$20.

Shows start at 7:30pm.

For tickets, call 800.786.8208.

Rubber Biscuit's Rockin' Blues Revue

Rubber Biscuit's Rockin' Blues Revue will be at the South Shore Room at Harrah's Lake Tahoe is July 22-24, Aug. 5-7, and Aug. 19-21.

The shows start at 7:30pm.

Cost is \$20.

For tickets, call 800.786.8208.