El Dorado redistricting may significantly impact Tahoe

The Lake Tahoe portion of El Dorado County may not have a supervisor devoted just for that area.

Every 10 years all counties look at boundaries based on current Census results.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates El Dorado County's population at 181,058, an increase of approximately 25,000 residents since the 2000 Census.

The county Surveyor's Office has produced five options for future supervisorial district boundaries. Each version contains supervisorial districts with approximately 36,212 residents. The map alternatives will be formally presented to the Board of Supervisors April 26 at 10am at the county government center in Placerville. The board is expected to adopt a final map in July.

All of the redistricting map alternatives are available online. The website also includes reference maps, a feedback form, contact information, relevant agenda items, and will serve as a platform for future redistricting related announcements.

The redistricting team with Supervisor Ray Nutting will have a community meeting April 28 at the Pollock Pines Community Center, 2675 Sanders Drive from 7-9pm. Another workshop is May 5 at the El Dorado Hills Community Services District Pavilion, 1021 Harvard Way from 6-8pm. Details of additional workshops are pending, though it's not known if one will be in Tahoe.

Alison Krauss & Union Station

Harveys Lake Tahoe and Another Planet Entertainment are bringing Alison Krauss & Union Station to stage July 10.

Krauss’ most recent triumph, the certified-platinum Raising Sand, her 2007 collaboration with Robert Plant and producer T Bone Burnett, notched up a total of six Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year and Song of the Year.

Krauss has released 11 albums, appeared on numerous soundtracks, and helped renew interest in bluegrass music in the United States. Her soundtrack performances have led to further popularity, including the O Brother, Where Art Thou? soundtrack, an album also credited with raising American interest in bluegrass. Her 27 Grammy Awards make her the most awarded female artist, the most awarded singer, and tied for the second most awarded artist overall in Grammy history.

An opening act for Alison Krauss & Union Station will be announced later.

Tickets are $49.50, $69.50 and $99.50.

Show time is 7pm.

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part of Harveys summer concerts

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Tickets go on sale May 6 at 10am through Ticketmaster. Tickets are $49.50, $69.50 and $99.50.

Show time is 7pm.

Chili fundraiser helps TAP

All you can eat chili fundraiser benefits Tahoe Arts Project.

The event is April 21 form 5-10pm at Coyote Grill in Round

Hill next to Safeway.

Chili is $1.

Internet Bookings: How to Increase Your Lodging Occupancy

As part of its Chamber EDucation program, the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce is hosting “Internet Bookings: How to Increase Your Lodging Occupancy” April 27, 1-3pm, at the North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd. in Kings Beach.

The seminar is geared for owners and managers of hotels, motels, condominiums and vacation homes, and will assist properties in increasing their visibility in domestic and international markets, increasing occupancy and online booking presence, and how best to utilize North Lake Tahoe Resort Association member benefits. Speakers include Leisure Sales Manager Jeremy Jacobson of the NLTRA, as well as representatives with Travelocity, Expedia, Alpine Adventures and BookIt.com.

The registration deadline is April 25. This seminar is free to North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce members and is $25/person for non-members. To register, contact North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce Manager Kym Fabel at (530) 581-8764 or kym@PureTahoeNorth.com.

Ski report: Lots of wind



Wind warning for Lake Tahoe will mean lift operations will be affected – and not in a good way.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Girls on the Run in Truckee

New Balance/Girls on the Run 5K and 10K Fun Run is June 5 at 9am at Truckee River View Sports Park, 12200 Joerger Drive, off Soaring Way.

Cost for 5K is $20; families of four (two adults, two kids) $50; online preregistration for the 10K is $30. On race day, 5K is $25 and 10K is $35. Youths age 5-12 are $10 preregistered, $15 event day.

Biomechanics of bicycling talk

Mont Hubbard will present two research projects involving bicycles being developed at the UC Davis Sports Biomechanics Laboratory.

The event is at the Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, on May 12 at 5:30.

One project addresses fundamental questions of balance and rider control. Using special bicycles that have been augmented with scientific instruments and techniques previously used in Aeronautics, researchers at UC Davis are studying how human "pilots" intuitively control bicycles.

The no-host bar opens at 5:30pm, program begins at 6pm. A $5 donation is requested.

For more information, call (775) 881.7560, ext. 7474.

Nevada legislators' bickering doesn't resolve K-12 budget gap

By Anne Knowles

CARSON CITY – The Nevada Assembly's meeting to debate and close the state's K-12 education budget ended in an acrimonious stalemate, with Assembly Republicans rallying behind Gov. Brian Sandoval's budget and Democrats arguing for smaller cuts to education.

"We've been told it's the governor's way or no way," said William Horne, D-Las Vegas, as he spoke in opposition to a motion by Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea, R-Eureka, to vote on eight elements of the governor's proposal. "I can't even call it a debate. We're not having the discussion. I'm disheartened by that."

“When I got elected I was clearly told to learn to live within your means,” said Assemblyman Ira Hansen, R-Sparks, who added that Democrats were proposing to raise taxes without admitting to it.



John Oceguera

In the end, after more than six hours of testimony and discussion, the Assembly retired without any action on the budget Tuesday night.

Toward the end, the debate became heated, with several Democratic members reprimanding Assemblyman Mark Sherwood, R-Henderson, for calling the process “a farce.”

The education budget, like all department budgets, is normally presented to and closed by the Assembly’s Ways and Means committee, but Assembly leadership announced last week it was taking the state’s most important issues out of committee to the entire body so all legislators could have a say in the process.

“We’ve got some big decisions to make,” Assembly Speaker John Oceguera, D-Las Vegas, said to open the meeting. “This session we are deciding what kind of state we want to be.”

Oceguera said if the budget proposed by Sandoval stands, it would mean more than $1 billion in cuts to K-12 education. Sandoval says the hit will be closer to $600,000.

“Seventy percent of the cuts are in salary adjustments,” said Heidi Gansert, Sandoval’s chief of staff. She said the governor’s budget treats education employees the same as state

employees. The budget implements a salary freeze and 5 percent pay cut via furloughs as well as now requiring teachers to pony up one-quarter of the contribution made to their retirement through Public Employees Retirement System. (Other state employees pay 50 percent of the contribution.)

Personnel costs make up the bulk of school districts' costs – 90 percent of Washoe County's education budget goes to teachers, administrators and other school employees, for example – so teachers and teachers' salaries, in particular, came under fire.

"Is collective bargaining the problem?" asked Assemblyman Crescent Hardy, R-Mesquite, referring to the process by which teachers and schools districts negotiate teacher salaries.

"I can only speak for Washoe County, but collective bargaining is not a problem," said Heath Morrsion, Washoe County superintendent, in a lengthy question-and-answer session with legislators. "I have been through one budget cycle and asked four of my five employee associations to engage in contract negotiations. They could have said no, but they said yes."

Morrison said Washoe County last year cut $37 million from its budget and is looking at cutting $75 million this year and another $75 million next year. Even if the county went back to the same trough for cuts, said Morrison, Washoe will still need to find another $40 million to slash from its budget.

"What are the options? We have spent every day looking at this," Morrison said.

He said options include 30-day furloughs or increasing class size by six students. The county has already asked its board of trustees to increase class size by two, which would cut 94 teaching jobs.

Morrison said his biggest concern, though, was the governor's plan to sweep out funds from the school district's debt

reserves. The school districts are required by law to maintain debt reserves that equal 100 percent of a year's worth of principal and interest payments on its bonds. Sandoval is proposing to reduce that to 10 percent and take the rest of the reserves to offset other cuts.

"We have been told the money would be funneled back to us but we have not been told how," Morrison told *Lake Tahoe News* after the meeting.

Morrison said that would mean the county could not raise money for capital projects, such as building new schools or renovating and maintaining existing ones, by issuing bonds for six to eight years because it could not prudently do so until it built its reserves back up.

Morrison also asked legislators to consider not allowing the Governmental Services Tax, which is charged on car licenses and helps funds schools, to be reduced from 2.6 percent to 2.25 percent.

"That would mean $111 million (for all schools), $17 million for Washoe," Morrison said. "It would help."

Douglas County School District would lose $3.3 million if the GST rate were allowed to drop. This is on top of the nearly $6 million is just approved in cuts last week.

Representatives from other school districts, including Clark, Nye and Lyon counties, also made presentations, as well as Gansert and Director of Administration Andrew Clinger, who took questions on the governor's proposed budget.

Although the meeting produced no action on the budget, several members suggested the Assembly should wait until after May 2, when the Economic Forum releases new forecasts for the state's economy. The budget is built based on the forum's findings and the upcoming forecasts are expected to be rosier.

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