

Lahontan creates new rules for construction sites

Lahontan Water Board staff has drafted a revised General Storm Water Construction Permit for construction and land disturbance activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin. People disturbing more than 1 acre must obtain coverage under this general permit by submitting application materials to Lahontan for review. The revised permit contains new requirements for monitoring storm events at construction sites.

Lahontan is hosting two informational workshops its office at 2501 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. The two, two-hour workshops are Feb. 10 starting at 10am and 3pm.

The tentative permit may be found at the Water Board's website.

Comments on the tentative permit are due to Lahontan by Feb. 26. The board anticipates considering adoption of the permit at its April 13-14 meeting in South Lake Tahoe. Questions regarding this permit may be directed to Bud Amorfini, Engineering Geologist at (530) 542.5463.

LTCC president talks about dollars, future of college

By Kathryn Reed

Money. It was the overriding concern of people asking questions of Lake Tahoe Community College's president.

Steve Maradian, interim president of the South Lake Tahoe school, delivered a one-hour talk Friday about the state of the college to about 40 people – students, administrators, trustees, faculty, and staff.



Steve Maradian
gives the
state of
college
address at
LTCC on Feb.
4.

Photo/Kathryn
Reed

Overall, his message was the college is doing well despite the chaos and uncertainty in Sacramento. But those unknowns about what lawmakers will do when it comes to funding higher education is what those in attendance wanted to hear more about.

Gov. Jerry Brown is proposing \$400 million in cuts to the community college system. The best-case scenario is a \$640,000 hit to LTCC; worst case is \$1.7 million. The discrepancy is largely based on a possible June ballot measure Brown wants to bring to voters.

Maradian said because the board has made prudent fiscal decisions in the past, LTCC is able to pay its bills, unlike some colleges which are running a deficit.

LTCC has 7 percent in mandatory reserves or \$960,000. Last

year a rainy day fund was created which contains \$750,000. Another reserve account has about \$400,000.

"We'll identify all the funds we can capture without hurting instruction," Maradian said in regards to preparing the annual budget for 2011-12.

Maradian said the things the college can count on are tuition costs going up, health care being more expensive, and the state providing less assistance.

Flexibility is another word he used. It's going to be needed as the state deals with its 11-figure deficit.

In his mostly optimistic speech from a podium on the stage at Duke Theater, Maradian asked the assembled group, "Do we dream big or do we not dream at all?"

"Dream big" was the answer.

But from there Maradian delved into the challenges the college is likely to face.

Providing non-credit fee based instruction is one area Maradian believes LTCC should explore.

He cautioned the governor might one day require a local parcel tax to fund community colleges. Maradian said he looked into property values of the college district and found the total to be \$52 billion. If people were taxed \$1 on every \$100,000 of value for their property, the college could bring in \$5 million.

Baccalaureate programs are the trend for community colleges, though not in California.

Maradian said more education opportunities are needed, especially as the population grows. The demand for higher education is outpacing the state's ability to provide it. Cuts mean fewer classes, which means students aren't able to get

the education they want.

He posed the rhetorical question: What happens if one or two generations slip through because there are not enough seats?

There are 2.7 million students in California's community colleges, with just 74,000 graduating each year, which includes those receiving certificates.

Maradian touched on the Title 3 project, saying a Datatel consultant was on campus two days this week to assess the situation. When the staff member who was in charge of the project had his job eliminated last month by the board it caused quite a commotion.

When pressed to elaborate more by a member of the audience, Maradian said the start date to use the software is now 2012, with some students and staff piloting the program before it starts.

"Buying time didn't cost us money. It will make it more manageable to implement," Maradian said. "It's a more realistic approach."

He added that the consultant would provide the college with planning documents to go through the process.

Nevada approves bear hunting, including in Tahoe

By Keith Rogers, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The state Wildlife Commission voted Friday to establish Nevada's first bear hunting season in an emotional-packed

meeting that drew opposition from animal rights activists.

The nine-member commission voted 7-1 with Commissioner Charles Howell casting the dissenting vote.

Chairman Scott Raine did not vote.

Read the whole story

Teller takes 5th in skicross at Deer Valley

By Freddy Perryman, U.S. Ski Team

PARK CITY -- John Teller of Mammoth Lakes just missed the skicross final round Friday, but won the small finals to finish fifth at the FIS Freestyle World Ski Championships at Deer Valley Resort in Park City. Canada's Chris Del Bosco and Kelsey Serwa swept gold.

Teller was the only American to make Friday's skicross finals. After qualifying for the finals in ninth, Teller skied well, passing his way through the first heat and the quarterfinals before finishing third in his semifinal race earning a spot in the small final.

Teller took full advantage of his opportunity in the small final where he blasted into the lead, taking the hole shot at the first corner and never looked back. He finished fifth overall.

"I had some goals coming into this season. They were pretty high goals and I'd say I've achieved them," said a confident Teller.

Teller's strong finish in Friday's World Championships comes only a week after he won gold in the 2011 Winter X Games in Aspen.

"The course was good," said American Skicross Association's Casey Puckett, who came out of retirement last week to place third in skicross at Winter X Games 15. "There was room to pass and Teller made a lot of passes today."

In the first heat of the women's quarterfinals, there was a massive crash where all of the skiers, including Ophelie David of France, went down. Going into Friday's races, David was favored to make the skicross finals.

Del Bosco's gold came after finishing fourth in the 2009 Worlds and the Olympics last year. Jouni Pellinen of Finland and Andreas Matt of Austria earned silver and bronze, respectively, to round out the men's podium. Matt, the brother of Austrian alpine star Mario Matt, was the defending World Champion. The women's silver went to Julia Murray of Canada and Anna Holmlund of Sweden got the bronze.

Official results, FIS World Freestyle Ski Championships, Deer Valley Resort, Skicross

Men

Gold: Chris Del Bosco, Canada

Silver: Jouni Pellinen, Finland

Bronze: Andreas Matt, Austria

—

5. John Teller, Mammoth Lakes, CA

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DNQ for finals:

37. Patrick Duran, Fayson, VT

38. Trevor Ricioli, South Lake Tahoe, CA

40. Ethan Fortney, Tenino, WA

Women

Gold: Kelsey Serwa, Canada

Silver: Julia Murray, Canada

Bronze: Anna Holmlund, Sweden

Placerville school, community coping with loss

To the community,

School resumed today in the Placerville Union School District after the tragic loss of our dear friend and Schnell School principal, Sam LaCara.

We would like to thank our community and families for the outpouring of support for our staff and students – it is deeply appreciated.

At Schnell School, the return today was made successful through the efforts of an abundance of support staff who partnered with each of our teachers in support of both our teachers and our students. Every student heard the same message regarding this tragedy, followed by counselor and teacher led discussions. We feel this went very well, yet we encourage you to continue to have conversations with your children. The following message was read to all students:

“This is a very sad day at Schnell School. Our beloved principal, Mr. LaCara has died. It is hard to understand why horrible things happen. You will hear a lot of reasons for and discussions about this from your friends and families but nobody will have all of the answers. When events such as this happen, people react in many different ways. Today you will see people who are very sad, upset, angry or shocked. We all need to practice patience and respect for each other. Some of us will want to have quiet time or time to talk with an adult. As adults, we are expected to have all of the answers and control our feelings. You will see a lot of adults who are also very sad today. We can take some time to talk about this now and if you would like, you can share some of your memories of Mr. LaCara. Mr. LaCara was a fantastic principal, wonderful friend and devoted husband and father. We will really miss him. Many of us will be feeling sad for a while. We will all help each other get through this and Schnell School will heal together. I will do my best to answer your questions but I may not have all the answers. “

Counselors were also available for staff and students at both Markham and Sierra schools.

Counseling and advice remains available for parents as well.

For those families who did not attend school today (Feb. 4), please know that we will continue to offer support services next week and thereafter, as needed.

A memorial service for Sam LaCara is scheduled Feb. 8 at 4pm at Green Valley Community Church, 3500 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville.

Information on the memorial service and memorial fund can be found on the Placerville Union School District website.

Mr. LaCara's family is requesting that, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sam LaCara Memorial Fund at the El Dorado Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1388, Placerville, CA

95667

Again, we want to thank all of you for your support and dedication to the students, staff, and families of the Placerville Union School District.

Vicki Barber, superintendent El Dorado County Office of Education

CASA El Dorado hires executive director

CASA El Dorado has hired John Adams to be executive director. A private-sector veteran with nonprofit consulting experience, Adams replaces Susan Dorsey, who, after more than three years as CASA's top administrator, has resumed a career in the healthcare field.

Adams brings decades of private-sector experience and development leadership for regional nonprofits. In 2010, he completed a master's degree in organizational leadership with a certificate in nonprofit and public leadership at Chapman University. Adams received the President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteer service to local agencies in 2009.

For three decades, Adams worked in executive sales, marketing and business development roles for technology companies. He most recently served as managing director of Nexthop Technologies. Earlier, Adams enjoyed a 14-year career at Network Equipment Technologies, where he served as vice president and general manager of a business unit overseeing operations in Asia Pacific and Latin America.

Adams has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Notre Dame de Namur. He and his wife, Lyn, have three grown children.

Napa classic wine tasting

March 1 at 6pm is Napa Classics Tasting at Après Wine Company in South Lake Tahoe.

Cost is \$25 advance, \$30 at door. It includes five wines and appetizer pairings. Discounts on wines tasted. RSVP to (530) 544.9463.

Wines under \$15 tasting

Feb. 22 at 6pm is Wines Under \$15 A Bottle tasting at Après Wine Company in South Lake Tahoe.

Cost is \$15 advance, \$20 at door. It includes five wines and appetizer pairings. Discounts on wines tasted.

RSVP to (530) 544.9463.

France vs. Italy wine tasting

Feb. 15 at 6pm – France vs. Italy, Round 2 is a tasting at Après Wine Company in South Lake Tahoe.

Cost is \$25 advance, \$30 at door. It includes five wines and appetizer pairings. Discounts on wines tasted.

RSVP to (530) 544.9463.

Memorial fund established for principal's family

A memorial fund has been established for the family of Sam LaCara through the El Dorado Community Foundation. Donations by credit card may be made by calling (530) 622.5621. Donations in the form of a check made payable to the Sam LaCara Memorial Fund can be sent to:

Sam LaCara Memorial Fund

c/o El Dorado Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1388,
Placerville, CA 95667.

Individuals may send sympathy wishes to:

c/o Placerville Union School District office, 1032 Thompson
Way, Placerville, CA 95667

LaCara's family is requesting in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Sam LaCara Memorial Fund at the El Dorado Community Foundation.