LTCC board concerned about SnowGlobe field

Before the Lake Tahoe Community College board of trustees agrees to allow SnowGlobe to return for a year or even three, worries about the field need to be put to rest.

The board at its meeting this week talked about the possibility of having the music festival return. With the college having a men and women's soccer programs starting in the fall, the need to keep the field playable has taken on a greater urgency.

College President Kindred Murillo and South Lake Tahoe City Manager Nancy Kerry will be meeting next week to talk about the field. Then a presentation will be made to the college board at either the March 25 or April 8 meeting. The board would likely take action at the next meeting following the presentation.

The City Council earlier this month agreed to a three-year deal for the three-day music festival to return in late December. It has been at the community ball field for the last three years.

"There have been so many things said about the impact of SnowGlobe on our field. (The board) really wants to be clear," Murillo told *Lake Tahoe News*. "The most recent articles and comments from the city are that snowload is what wears the field down faster and SnowGlobe doesn't have that big of an impact."

The board also wants to make sure the city has money in the bank to replace the field when that is needed in the next few years.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Advocates pitch legalized pot to Congress

By Holly Yeager, Washington Post

The delegation from the National Cannabis Industry Association made a point of dressing well for its day on Capitol Hill, sporting mostly dark suits, lots of ties and plenty of the group’s signature lapel pins, which feature a sun rising over vibrant fields of marijuana.

Marijuana advocates have come to lobby Washington before, often to argue for more lenient treatment under federal law. But on Thursday, buoyed by a flurry of state decisions that have expanded the legal use of marijuana, the cannabis crowd came less as social activists than as entrepreneurs, asking Congress to remove some of the obstacles that stand in the way of their fledgling businesses.

They met with staff members to ask for changes to the tax code, which prohibits the businesses from taking standard deductions for expenses. And they huddled in congressional offices to make the case for other changes that would encourage banks to work with legal cannabis businesses.

Read the whole story

Library, In-N-Out partner in Douglas County

Douglas County Public Library is participating in the In-N-Out Burger Cover to Cover Club reading program through April 12.

Children ages 4-12 are eligible to receive certificates for a free In-N-Out hamburger or cheeseburger by reading books. Both branches of the library are participating in the program.

Children must fill out a file card at the library to enroll in the program. Readers will earn an Achievement Award redeemable for an In-N-Out hamburger for every five books read at their reading level. Each participating child may earn up to three award certificates. Children too young to read on their own may have a parent read to them.

Prescribed fire operations to resume in basin

U.S. Forest Service fuels management crews may continue prescribed fire operations in numerous locations around the Lake Tahoe Basin on March 17.

Activity may continue through the week and possibly the weekend if weather, staffing, and conditions allow. Prescribed fire operations may take place on Spooner Summit and in the Luther Pass Campground off of Highway 89. On the West Shore, operations will take place off Tahoe Park Heights Drive in Ward Canyon, the west side of Highway 89 near Tahoma, and near D.L. Bliss State Park.

Locations may vary due to changing conditions.

All prescribed fire projects are conducted in accordance with an approved prescribed fire burn plan. Burn plans describe specific conditions under which operations are conducted including the weather, number of personnel, opportunities to minimize smoke impacts, and available burn days.

Smoke from prescribed fire may continue for several days after the initial ignition. Smoke that settles in low lying areas in the morning usually lifts out of the area during normal daytime heating.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Karen Staeheli, owner of Naked Fish in South Lake Tahoe, is opening a second restaurant in San Luis Obispo.

• Yonder Mountain String Band will be at MontBleu in Stateline on April 3 at 8pm. Opening is the Brothers Comatose. Tickets are $25 in advance, $30 the day of the show – 888.829.7630.

• Truckee's Dragonfly Restaurant and Sushi Bar is closing this month and in its place will be a meat and seafood restaurant run by two Cottonwood Restaurant bartenders.

• On May 21, Sierra Front Wildland Fire Cooperators will host a regional wildland fire sand table exercise at the Douglas County Fairgrounds in Gardnerville.

• The Nevada Taxpayers Association awarded Douglas County its

Cashman Good Government Award for the county's innovative budget solutions.

Incline Village segment of Stateline-to-Stateline bike trail whittled down to 2 options

By Kathryn Reed

Riding closer to the lake or being more in the woods. That is what people are being asked to decide when it comes to developing the first three miles of the Incline Village segment of the Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway.

The environmental documents for the project are in circulation. Two options plus a do nothing alternative are proposed. The Tahoe Transportation District, the lead agency, has not picked a preferred route.

"There is give and take in both based on user experience and environmental and regulatory constraints," Alfred Knotts, lead planner with TTD, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "Either the mountain or lakeside are both pretty much 100 percent public lands."



The South Shore demo bike path is meeting expectations of developers. Photo Copyright 2014 Carolyn E. Wright

Easements would still need to be obtained, along with a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service.

This segment is part of a more than 30-mile bike trail that one day will connect Crystal Bay in the north to Stateline in the south. The Stateline demo project is finished. It goes from Kahle Drive to Round Hill Pines Beach. It has already proved to be a popular trail. Douglas County tallied the users with 10,768 on the trail in July. The peak day was July 4 with 963 people. The total for August was 7,842 users; peak was Aug. 8 at 405.

This summer the Laura Drive connection will be built. Still to come is the path involving Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. Eventually that will link to the Greenway Trail that will go from Meyers to Stateline.

For now, the focus is getting the paperwork done for the Incline segment and then looking for the funding once the final alignment is determined. It’s estimated to cost $12 million if the lake version is chosen. This is the more expensive alternative.

“It would be separated from the highway and would be depressed,” Knotts explained.

It’s likely the project would be broken into segments. In part this has to do with money, but also because the building season in Tahoe is so short. Next year is the earliest it could start.

No matter the preferred alternative, the first segment is the same – going from Incline to Tunnel Creek.

The mountain version then goes from Tunnel Creek to Memorial Point then to Sand Harbor.

The lake version would cross Highway 28 at Tunnel Creek, go to Memorial Point and end at Sand Harbor.

A 30-space parking lot is proposed for the area near Tunnel Creek Café.

Studies have shown it’s not just Tahoe residents and visitors riding at Lake Tahoe. A substantial number of people from Reno bring their bikes to the basin to ride.

“We’ve identified recreation is the economic driver of Lake Tahoe. Facilities will help bring that to reality,” Knotts said.

Once the comment period closes, the agency will review them, incorporate changes and address issues. By the end of June it’s likely the project will have been before the TTD, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Federal Highway Administration boards for approval.

As work is being done on these three miles, the section of the larger trail is being discussed. This could come to fruition years sooner than once believed possible. This is because the Incline Village General Improvement District has to do work on an export line. IVGID has expressed interest in working with TTD to have the bike trail go in at the same time.

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Notes:

• Comments will be taken until April 11. Send them to Brian Judge, TRPA, P.O. Box 5310, Stateline, NV 89448.

• Washoe County commissioners will have a public hearing March 25 at 6pm at 1001 E. Ninth St., Bldg. A, Reno.

• Tahoe Transportation District's board will have a meeting April 11 at 9:30am at Sierra Nevada College, 291 Country Club Drive, Room 141, Incline Village.

• The project document may be found online.

Letters: Meyers residents need to be in control

To the community,

Meyers has a rich history behind what you see today. But in some ways it really hasn't changed much.

Jim Wilson, land developer, began developing Meyers – then called Tahoe Paradise – in the 1950s. He traveled the world in search for the right recreational ideas for this new development. Wilson called Tahoe Paradise the Gateway to the South Shore. Wilson's concept of a recreational location for sharing the magic of the outdoors around Tahoe Paradise wasn't much different than the "vision" of Meyers' folks today.

Long gone are the days when I worked at Fae and Lee Anderson's Shell Gas Station putting on chains in winter and pumping gas, working as a car mechanic at Meyers Automotive, and playing real estate at Comstock Properties, Mountain Harbor Realty and

Yank’s Realty.

Somewhere back then I bought my first powerful stereo set from Joe Tveten.

A few years ago I attended what I believed were genuine Meyers Round Table community meetings in search of a “community vision”.

As stated then is still true now, most Meyers-Tahoe Paradise-Christmas Valley locals are not against carefully thought-out and responsible development in Meyers.

Meyers can certainly use some degree of tasteful architectural development, parks and bike paths, and local job and revenue producing businesses. This can be achieved gradually.

The Meyers community has a new challenge. It appears we have outside corporate developers teamed up with TRPA and sustainability entities making their own plans for our community. These so called “sustainability entities” are largely comprised of TRPA staff, county planning agencies and consulting-development corporations. What a nice little convenient group they have become.

It’s obvious that TRPA and the California Tahoe Conservancy have completely reversed their original mandated missions to protect Lake Tahoe.

This reversal in their missions is purely in the interest of self-preservation and revenue generation to sustain their agencies and cause for existence.

TRPA is attempting to save themselves by joining forces with outside corporate developers-consultants for large-scale commercial development to generate huge fees for development, permitting, and mitigation. This newly conceived revenue will offset their huge administration staffing and overhead.

The CTC has followed with a complete reversal of their

original intent to protect Tahoe with their new asset land sales program. These two agencies' new mission reversals are absurd.

My opinion is – if their original intent and mission is accomplished, they should downsize or shut down.

Agency incentivized large scale commercial development is devastating to Lake Tahoe's air and water quality, and Tahoe residents' quality of living.

This new dangerous combination of agency-special interest activity is compounded by a lack of local community representation.

Our local El Dorado County supervisor, Norma Santiago, was recently exposed for her involvement with One Globe Corporation and "Catalyst Program" concept plan.

This misrepresentation of interest to her constituency did not set well with locals.

Supervisor Norma Santiago's mistaken interest likely came from a possible "conflict of interest" when she sat on multiple boards for the past few years including the TRPA, the Tahoe Conservancy, and the Sustainability Collaborative.

On a related subject – these agencies and sustainability groups – TMPO, TRPA, LTSCP, etc. – are actually grant funded through the California Strategic Growth Council with our tax dollars. Please pay attention to this one people.

This SGC program's original intent was to improve air and water quality, promote public health, increase housing affordability, and promote a variety of other programs for the benefit of communities.

What TRPA and the sustainability groups have apparently done is primarily focus on the commercial development aspect of this SGC program for self-interests and revenue.

They have recently reapplied to the SGC for additional grant funding in the approximate amount of $995,000 – literally stating, “The community of Meyers in El Dorado County in the South Shore of Lake Tahoe is the first community that is ready to use its Area Plan, funded by SGC.”

In my opinion, this statement is truly a falsified statement and deception to receive this grant funding.

This Meyers Plan is not done. We’re not done.

Making matters worse is our community representation has been almost non-existent with our so-called MCAC or Meyers Community Advisory Council.

Most of the Meyers residents had never even heard of this council until recently when some of us brought this new Meyers Area Plan draft to their attention last month.

These council members apparently have never recorded minutes for their meetings and possibly didn’t officially vote on any key concepts for the new plan.

Their role as a representation council for the Meyers community seems to have been purely directed by TRPA, the sustainability entities, and the TRPA Regional Plan update.

This Meyers Community Advisory Council hid in fear in opposite corners of the room under the protection of the recent TRPA facilitated MCAC/community meeting on Feb. 26.

Personally, I feel the case should be made that this entire planning process is and has been “illegitimate” and should be completely revamped to accommodate true community representation.

I believe the Meyers community has the right and responsibility to do our own planning.

Our primary focus should be on these four points in the draft

plan:

(1) Height restrictions of new commercial buildings

(2) Density of commercial development units per acre

(3) Land use and zoning – partially to protect businesses we already have

(4) Limited corporate development approved by a legitimate local committee.

This matter is urgent. You need to voice your opinions.

We'd like to see all of you and more at the next community meeting at the California Conservation Corps Building, 1949 Apache Ave, March 19, 6-8pm

As a Meyers community – we can get this done.

Respectfully yours,

John Adamski, Meyers

Letters: Calling all Meyers residents

To the community,

It has been wonderful to see all of the comments you have been sending on the Meyers Area Plan; however, we need to remain diligent to make sure the new Meyers Area Plan reflects what we want for our community. Please mark your calendars for March 19, 6-8pm at the CCC building, if you haven't already.

Preparing for March 19 meeting:

We were assured by our Supervisor Norma Santiago at the Feb. 26 meeting that we, the Meyers Community, would be heard at this March 19 meeting. This is our community and our plan – and our opportunity to speak up. Unfortunately, there is a lot of unclear, confusing information out there, so please review the Meyers Area Plan for yourself. It's not very fun reading, but it's important for the future of the community we have chosen to live in. But also, we must be careful to keep in mind that there are some rules in TRPA's Regional Plan Update that will impact Meyers, yet are not mentioned in the Area Plan. See TRPA's Code online.

For example:

Chapter 37 of TRPA's Code includes 22 pages regarding height and exceptions that would allow more height. As it appears most people who have commented on height appear to like existing buildings like Century 21 and Bob Dog's Pizza – which are not even as tall as the draft Area Plan currently proposes – without considering additional exceptions – perhaps we consider some language in the Meyers Area Plan to limit or prohibit the exceptions allowed in the TRPA Code?

Also, although we have heard there are "limits" on new commodities in Meyers, like commercial floor area, tourist units, etc., TRPA's Code Chapter 50 allows these uses to be transferred, converted, and otherwise made available just about anywhere in the basin. If we want limits on these commodities, then let's make sure our area plan says so.

New Meyers community website:

We want to help our community make informed decisions based on the facts. On that note, given there is so much information that relates to future plans for Meyers, and a lot of interest from the community, we have created a website to help keep you informed. Please go online to learn more and obtain

information regarding other issues and plans which can affect Meyers, but that are not necessarily mentioned in the Meyers Area Plan language. Keep checking back too – we will keep the website updated as new information becomes available.

We will continue to remain diligent as well, with volunteers out to encourage attendance at the March 19 meeting and continue to obtain signatures on petitions for those who do not want the major increases in development currently in the draft Meyers Area Plan. In addition, we will remain in touch to provide additional information up until the March 19 meeting, and hope to see you all there.

Thank you,

Your fellow Meyers Area Residents and Business Owners

Joe Cardinale, resident

Jennifer Quashnick, resident

Jan Roman-Gonzales, resident and owner of Jan's Preschool and Childcare

Moya Sanders, resident

Douglas County primary ballot solidified

The lineup is set for the June 10 Douglas County primary, with Friday being the deadline to file.

Many of the races are not contested, including the District 4 commissioner seat held by Nancy McDermid.

Steven Thaler is the lone candidate for the District 2 commissioner seat. Lee Bonner currently has that seat.

One of the biggest races is for sheriff, where incumbent Ron Pierini faces two challengers for the first time in years. David Brady and Michael Gyll want his badge.

There will be a change on the Douglas County School District board because Sharla Hales is not running again. Robbe Lehmann is the lone person to run for that seat. Also unchallenged are incumbents Tom Moore and Ross Chichester.

Other uncontested races include:

• Assessor – Doug Sonnemann

• Clerk-treasurer – Ted Thran

• Constable East Fork Township – Paul Gilbert

• District attorney – Mark Jackson

• Public administrator – Claudette Springmeyer

• Recorder – Karen Ellison

• 9th Judicial District Department 1 – Nathan Young

• 9th Judicial District Department 2 – Michael Gibbons

• Town of Genoa – Greg Pace

• Logan Greek GID – David Moore.

Contested races include:

• Town of Gardnerville – Cassandra Jones, Ken Miller, Annette Philips, Linda Slater

• Town of Minden – Matt Bernard, Charles Condron, Roxanne Stangle

• Cave Rock Estates GID – Don Blackard, Colin Dawson, Marge Hauge, Grant Thompson

• East Fork Swimming Pool District – Dave Ellison, Thomas Ingham, Michael McCormick, Greg Taylor

• Gardnerville Ranchos GID – Jeff James, Shari James, Brad Newlon, Leann Teter

• Indian Hills GID – Bill Eisele, Brian Patrick, Denise Pierini

• Kingsbury GID – Ooli Haskings, Bill Kirschner, Dan Norman, Craig Schorr, Darya Vogt

• Lakeridge GID – Suzanne Boyer, Andy Huckbody, Mel Laub, John Terry

• Marla Bay GID – Donna Hawksford, Carol McQuirk, John McQuirk

• Minden-Gardnerville Sanitation District – Mark Dudley, Mike King, Raymond Wilson

• Mosquito Abatement District – Rex Clearly, Kelly Nalder, Steve Walker

• Round Hill GID – Charles Fagen, Keith Fertala, Steve Seibel

• Skyland GID – Richard Boudreau, Barbara Klein, Connie Robertson

• Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District – Bill Kirschner, Kevin Kjer, Darya Vogt

• Tahoe-Douglas Sewer District – Mike Riley, Grant Thompson

• Topaz Ranch Estates GID – Mark Bradshaw, Ole Chave, Wendy Francis, Philip Miller, Steven Nielsen

• Zephyr Cove GID – Richard Johnson, Gary Richert, Patrick Riley

• Zephyr Heights GID – Ronald Brandow, Diane Imbach, Russell Irwin, Rondi Lambeth.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Derby Dames serving breakfast to raise money

Tahoe Derby Dames is having a pancake breakfast fundraiser March 23 from 8am-noon.

The Dames are the local roller derby team that competes at Bijou Community Park in South Lake Tahoe.

The breakfast is at the American Legion, 2748 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

Cost is $8 for adults, $5 for kids.

Anyone interested in being involved with the league, skating or non-skating, go online.