# CPR class

A basic life support CPR/AED class is being offered Oct. 11 from 5:30–9pm.

Cost is $50 for this one evening class. Fee includes manual.

This course is geared for the general public and covers 30:2 CPR for adults, children and infants AED use resuscitation masks.

How to help someone choking. Upon successful completion, receive a two-year certificate.

The instructor is Duane DeClerck. Call him at (530) 906.8171 for more details or set up a class geared for dental & health professionals.

Sign up early to guarantee that the class will run.

Register at the South Lake Tahoe Parks & Recreation Complex, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

For more info, call (530) 542.6056 or check www.recreationintahoe.com.

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# Experts: Slow fire season has potential to explode

**By Brian VanderBeek, Sacramento Bee**

The lack of any major fire activity during the first half of the summer has firefighters knocking on wood.

And there’s a lot of wood on which to knock. The higher-than-normal rainfall in a longer-than-normal rainy season has produced grasses nearly everywhere, and the bumper crop of herbaceous fuel has smoke-watchers anxiously monitoring the Coast Range and the Sierra.

“We have a few weather stations along the forest, and we’ve been looking at the trends,” said Jerry McGowan, forest fire management officer for the Stanislaus National Forest. “Those trends are climbing, but so far there haven’t been any large fires this year within the United States. Everybody has been lucky.”

**Read the whole story**

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# Mini power outages strike South Shore

**By Kathryn Reed**

Power has been flickering off for brief moments for the past two mornings on the South Shore.

NV Energy took the main line serving the Meyers substation out of service on July 19.

“When that occurred, the electric load was shifted to another line on Kingsbury Grade with a wire that had apparently been damaged sometime earlier in the year by a falling tree,” Karl Walquist, spokesman for the electric company, said. “The additional electric load, and associated heat, caused the damaged line to fall to the ground, knocking out service to the Meyers substation at 8:48am and causing a small fire.”

Service on the California side was out for a few minutes while crews re-energized the line that had been taken offline. Customers near Heavenly Mountain Resort in Nevada were without power for about an hour because the affected line is in the middle of Kingsbury Grade near Palisades and Easy Streets.

However, the California outage affected more people – about 16,000 customers from Meyers to Al Tahoe.

While crews were back working on the Meyers substation Tuesday morning, about 9,000 customers lost power at 10:28am. The one-minute blackout hit Meyers, the Y, Upper Truckee and Gardner Mountain.

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# John Muir Trail hike to bring awareness to rare disease

**By Jacqueline Baylon, Sacramento Bee**

Hiking all 211 miles of the John Muir Trail from Yosemite to the summit of Mount Whitney is a challenge for any hiker. For Annette De Bow, the difficulty is multiplied.

De Bow, 44, has a rare, chronic blood disease called polycythemia vera, which means her bone marrow makes too many red blood cells that can set off a domino effect of health troubles if not kept in check.

In an effort to raise awareness of her disease – and money for research into polycythemia vera – De Bow will set out on a "Trek for a Cure" along the John Muir Trail.

**Read the whole story**

# Weather conditions produce high threat of fire

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a red flag warning for the Lake Tahoe-Reno-Carson areas from 3-8pm today.

A red flag warning means critical fire weather conditions are either occurring or are imminent. A combination of strong winds, low relative humidity and warm temperatures will create extreme fire growth potential.

Winds will be from the west at 15-20mph, with gusts up to 35mph.

Temperatures in the Lake Tahoe Basin will continue to be in the low to mid-80s for the rest of the week, with lows in the 40s. Add 10 degrees to those numbers for Reno temperatures.

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# I-80 delays this week because of Caltrans work




Expect delays through Thursday on Interstate 80 while Caltrans removes rocks to make the slope more stable.

Traffic controls will be from 5am-4pm these three days starting at Hirschdale for eastbound traffic and in Verdi for westbound travelers.

This is part of the $71 million Truckee River Canyon project that should be finished this fall.

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# Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Markleeville is about to have a pizza parlor and Intero Real Estate office – both are under construction. Both are expected to open later this year.

• Award-winning Tahoe mystery writer Todd Borg will be at the Twin Cabins on the Tahoe Tallac Site on the South Shore through July 22 from 10am to 4pm.

• South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce is still thriving – it just gave up its lease. “We didn’t get much walk-in traffic,” President JoAnn Connor said. She said the approximately 400 calls a month (530.542.5060) the organization gets are people seeking advice where to stay and what to do once they reach the South Shore.

• The World Series of Poker Circuit schedule for 2010-11 includes a stop at Harveys Lake Tahoe from Nov. 11-23.

• All campgrounds in Yosemite National Park are open. Snow delayed the opening of some. This is the first years since the 1997 flood that Yosemite Creek Campground has been open.

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# Man will attempt swimming length of Tahoe to raise money

**By Siobhan McAndrew, Reno Gazette-Journal**

It won't matter if there are record-high temperatures on Aug. 21 and 22. Ken Harmon will be cold.

The 50-year-old will try to swim a dual length of Lake Tahoe, 44 miles, in a nonstop swim for charity. The experienced long-distance swimmer will swim without a wet suit, in water about 70 degrees, for more than 24 hours to raise money for three charities that support the Down syndrome community.

"It is awe-inspiring to swim that lake," said Harmon, who swam the length of Tahoe in 2005 in a record-setting 11 hours and 19 minutes.

"It makes you feel as if you are a very small part of this world."

**Read the whole story**

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# Opinion: Water bond isn't about pork in the Sierra

**By Bob Kirkwood and Jim Branham, San Jose Mercury News**

As we head into the heat of summer, the politics of water will once again warm up as well.

Last year a water bond was passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor, placing it on this November's ballot. However, due to current economic factors, the governor has proposed removing it from the ballot, indicating this is not the time for a vote on such a measure. The Legislature is considering the governor's call, ultimately deciding the fate of the current bond proposal.

Some, including the *Mercury News* editorial writers, have suggested that the measure is full of pork-barrel spending. Apparently they believe huge sums of money are going to areas that have nothing to do with providing clean water for our homes, farms and environment. The Sierra Nevada region does not fit that picture.

We all have our definition of "pork," but to suggest that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's share (less than 1 percent) of the bond is wasteful, inappropriate spending misses the mark.

**Read the whole story**

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# Tahoe slogs through fuel reduction jobs with little cash

**By Kathryn Reed**

Money, or the lack of it, could derail the Lake Tahoe Basin-wide effort to create defensible space throughout the region.

In the last five years, $10.4 million has come to the Nevada Fire Safe Council via the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. That resource is drying up because the sale of

land in Southern Nevada is not as robust as when developers were scurrying to build.




What a treated area looks like. Photo/Stew McMorrow

It wasn't until 2008 that a change was made in the act to allow money to be spent on fuel reduction. That year a $4.4 million grant was awarded to the fire safe council.

"We currently have funding through next season. After that, then things become a little more uncertain," said Mark Novak, fire marshal with the Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District.

He said his department has applied for a grant that would fund another season of fuel reduction work. His agency treats 200-250 acres a season.

Unique to Tahoe-Douglas is voters in 2008 agreed to tax themselves for these types of projects. That brings in about $600,000 a year, but is not enough to fund all the projects.

An advantage to having that known pool of money is when grants require matching funds, the Tahoe-Douglas crew can point to the voter supply of money.

"In our area, about 3,000 acres still need treatment. We need to keep moving forward," Novak said.

**Nevada Fire Safe Council**

Andrew List, executive director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, is researching funding options. One idea is looking at SNPLMA projects that were funded but the project didn't go forward, therefore the money is unspent. If that money is back in one big pot, Tahoe could be in the running for it.

List wants to create an interest baring account so projects would use the interest, not the principle.

U.S. Forest Service grants have helped the fuels management cause. A FEMA grant is another possibility. A Nevada Division of Forestry grant was one of the early funding sources.

"We act as the fiscal sponsor. We are a nonprofit," List explained. "We submit grants and work with the five fire districts in the basin. We help put the projects out to bid so we can get the best value and contractor for the job, handle oversight and pay the bills. Then we let the fire guys do what fire guys do."

The fire safe council works on non-federal land, most of which is private. A rebate program helps residents pay for the treatments. Information about the rebate program is here.

Fire safe council chapters exist throughout the basin, with the first one being formed in Glenbrook in 2002. The idea is neighbors form an alliance to help one another with becoming a fire safe area. There are 56 chapters in the basin.

During the July 17 fire meeting hosted by Assemblyman Ted Gaines, R-Roseville, South Tahoe Fire Chief Lorenzo Gigliotti received interest from three people who would like to be leaders of fire safe chapters. The city currently has five chapters.

Through the council, 1,405 acres were treated in the Lake Tahoe Basin in 2009, 806 acres in 2008, with a goal of 1,500 acres this year.

The council focuses on the wildland urban interface – which is where communities abut the forest.

Defensible space inspections are provided for free by fire departments. This tells a homeowner which trees may need to be removed or other vegetation. Fire behavior, how a slope plays into fire risk, what vegetation burns hot, what is good to have close to a structure and other criteria are considered.

It's often the smaller tree that are taken out to thin an area. Space between the canopy of the trees is critical so flames can't jump from one tree to another. Ladder fuels, the low hanging branches, are another concern.

California law requires property owners maintain 30 feet of clean and green space immediately around their houses and 100 feet of defensible space clearing around the residence.

The 2009 operations report for the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team goes into detail about the acreage that was treated last year, where the funding came from, the rebate program and more.

**What others are doing**

Fire officials seem to have one eye on their budget and the other on stands of trees that pose a serious fire risk.

South Lake Tahoe has the Homestead project under way, which is treating 230 acres near Lake Tahoe Community College and Bijou Community Park.

To date, the city has completed 1,620 defensible space inspections.

Placer County provides low-cost, curbside assistance for reducing brush from property. The program is coordinated through the Board of Supervisors, Resource Conservation District, Office of Emergency Services, Air Pollution Control District and sheriff's office.

Money for the program is from a grant, but as of Aug. 2 residents will pay half of the $80 per hour fee. Since it began, the chipper program has created about 100,000 tons of chipped material.

Money was the overriding theme at a July 17 meeting in South Lake Tahoe regarding the bi-state Blue Ribbon Commission that was formed after the 2007 Angora Fire.

Lake Valley Fire Chief Jeff Michael has his fingers crossed, as do others, that Congress will soon reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. This is the bill then-President Bill Clinton helped create in 1997 after the inaugural environmental summit in 1997. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., is expected to have the act and fuels reduction as central themes to this year's summit that he is hosting Aug. 17.

"We are trying to be as proactive as we can with the funds that we have available," Michael said. "All of it has been grant funding. None one dime is out of the annual operating budget."

His budget comes from people in his service district who pay via their property tax bill. It's possible in the future voters could be asked to pay more.

Lake Valley averages about 300 acres a year – half done by hand, half mechanical treatment.

"The way we look at fuels, our treatments today aren't final. It's infinite," Michael said. "We will treat the same forest over the next several year. You have to go back and look at it again."

Lewis Grove, the defensible space inspector for North Tahoe Fire Protection district in Carnelian Bay, says his department is looking to treat 400 acres this season. The idea is to select urban areas that complement what is being done in the forest. This way a fire is less likely to spread from a

residence to the forest or vice versa.

He said permanent residents are overwhelmingly supportive of thinning because “they are vested in it.”

“Nature will do what it can to thin a forest – fire, beetle infestation or you can let us,” Grove said.

He said showing people treated areas where wildflowers and wildlife thrive helps convince them it’s the right thing to have a healthy forest.

“For the most part, I think it’s a matter of education,” Grove said of fuel reduction projects.

Resources for residents include:

• Emergency Preparedness Guide

• Living with Fire Guide

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