Academic scholarships for Liberty Utilities customers

Liberty Utilities is offering academic scholarships for eligible high school and college students within its service territory.

The seven schools participating in the second annual scholarship program are South Tahoe High School, Loyalton High School, Douglas High School (students residing in Alpine County only), Coleville High School, North Tahoe High School and Portola High School, as well as Lake Tahoe Community College.

The six high school scholarships are $500 each. High school seniors must have a minimum unweighted gpa of 2.5 and be accepted to an accredited four-year or two-year college or an accredited vocational school. They also must have community service experience where they reside.

The Lake Tahoe Community College scholarship is $750. Those students are eligible for the scholarship if they have a 2.5 gpa or higher, and have completed at least 18 quarter units at LTCC. They must be enrolled in LTCC’s upcoming fall quarter, and have demonstrated leadership through school and/or community service experiences within the community they reside.

Interested students should contact their school’s financial aid office or counselor to find out more about the scholarship and to obtain an application. The individual schools have different deadlines, but all scholarships will be awarded starting mid-May.

S. Lake Tahoe starting Citizens Academy

South Lake Tahoe is accepting applications for the spring Citizens Academy.

The academy will be on Wednesdays from 5:30-8pm from April 9-May 21.

The Citizens Academy is a free, seven session interactive course designed to provide residents with an in-depth look into municipal government, as well as, information about the services and programs of the city.

To enroll, complete this application by March 21 at 4pm.

2013 among the worst years for human rights

By Daniel Rothman, Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON – With a Syrian chemical weapons attack that killed more than 1,000 civilians, violent crackdowns against protesters in Turkey and Ukraine and a string of anti-gay laws from Russia to Uganda, human rights abuses last year ranked

among the worst in years, the State Department concluded Thursday in its annual review of more than 200 countries and territories.

“The year 2013 may well be known for some of the most egregious atrocities in recent memory,” Uzra Zeya, acting assistant secretary of State for democracy, human rights and labor, said during a briefing Thursday.

In addition to highlighting violence in Syria, Secretary of State John Kerry, who also attended the briefing, pointed to democratic back-sliding in several nations that threw off dictatorships during the “Arab Spring,” including Egypt.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• North Tahoe Fire Station 51 has been awarded LEED gold certification for new buildings by the U.S. Green Building Council.

• Rahlves’ Banzai Tour returns to Squaw Valley this weekend and Alpine Meadows March 8-9.

• Ski season has wrapped up for area high schools: South Tahoe High girls placed first, Incline second and Whittell third. For the boys, North Tahoe took first place, Truckee second and STHS third.

• The Division IV state boys basketball championship is Saturday night at 7:45pm. Whittell will take on Virginia City.

• North Tahoe Public Utility District’s annual Snow Fest Pancake Breakfast is March 8 from 8:30-10:30am at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach. Cost is $8 for adults, $3 for children. Proceeds benefit Dog Day in the Park and the future Tahoe Unleashed dog park at North Tahoe Regional Park.

Ganong barely misses downhill podium

By USSA

KVITFJELL, Norway – Travis Ganong (Squaw Valley), who 24 hours earlier stamped the first Audi FIS Alpine World Cup top three of his career, finished fourth Saturday, a mere 0.05 from a second downhill podium in Kvitfjell. Canadian Erik Guay hit 88 mph on the final speed trap to secure the win, the fifth of his career, with a time of 1:22.17.

Bode Miller (Franconia, N.H.) also landed in the top 10 with eighth in the final men’s downhill prior to the March 10-16 World Cup Finals in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Saturday’s downhill was also shortened due to snow conditions, but run from the super G start, 15 seconds higher than the reserve start used Friday.

Only the top 25 athletes in each discipline qualify to start that discipline at World Cup Finals. Athletes with 500 World Cup points can also start in any race and the Junior World Champion can start the discipline they won.

Only Miller (seventh) and Ganong (ninth) have qualified in

downhill for the U.S. Ski Team.

Marco Sullivan (Squaw Valley) and Steven Nyman (Sundance, Utah) finished 24th and 25th in the race, but are outside the World Cup top 25 for downhill.

Norwegian Aksel Lund Svindal tied for sixth in the race, but mathematically secured the season-long downhill title with a 525-360 lead over injured racer Hannes Reichelt of Austria and Guay, who now has 357 points.

Svindal also jumped into the World Cup overall lead with a 982-955 margin over two-time defending champion Marcel Hirscher of Austria. Hirscher is seeking to become the first three-peat overall champion since American Phil Mahre did it from 1981-83.

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85 died 50 years ago in worst Tahoe plane crash

By Bill Kingman and Kathryn Reed

The worst plane crash in Lake Tahoe's history was 50 years ago on March 1, 1964, when all 85 people on board the Paradise Airlines flight died.

They were coming from the Bay Area to Lake Tahoe Airport, then known as Tahoe Valley Airport, in South Lake Tahoe when the plane struck Genoa Peak.

Weather at Tahoe was snow, alternating with clearing, then back to snow. It was heavy at times.

The captain had aborted his first landing approach due to

near-zero visibility and then tried to loop around. But he failed to clear the trees atop Genoa Peak.

By early afternoon, it was apparent that the Paradise Airlines propeller-powered Lockheed Constellation in bound from San Jose to Tahoe was missing.

Search craft spotted the wreckage at the crest of Genoa Peak the next morning. Snow covered much of the debris.



This is a Lockheed Constellation at Tahoe Valley Airport in 1963. Photo/Dave Borges

The peak has an elevation of 8,675 feet. Speculation is that had the plane been 300 feet higher it could have cleared the peak.

All 81 passengers and four crew members, including the airline's chief pilot, died.

Another pilot warned the Paradise of icing at 12,000 feet, according to Aviation Safety Network.

The cause of the crash was ruled, "The pilot's deviation from prescribed [visual flight rules] flight procedures in attempting a visual landing approach in adverse weather conditions. This resulted in an abandoned approach and geographical disorientation while flying below the minimum altitude prescribed for operations in mountainous areas."

There was no tower at the airport then. One was built later, but today it is not operational.

The Civil Aeronautics Board grounded the airline.

Mike Ritter would ride motorcycles up the dirt roads north of Kingsbury Grade in the early 1970s. In 1973, he came across the crash site.



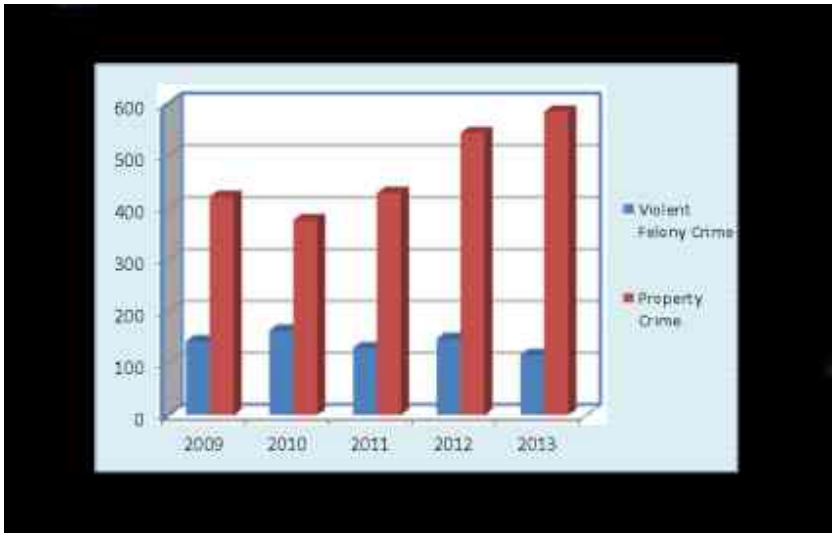
The crash site in October 2013. Photo/Chuck Westby

“The crash site was fascinating, particularly to a former Air Force radar controller who’d read his share of aircraft accident reports and even participated in a few,” Ritter told *Lake Tahoe News*. “The crash site was about 10 years old by that time, but we could stand on the ridge looking west and see the path of the aircraft as it crashed through the tree tops, cutting them off. It appeared, from that path of broken tree tops, that the aircraft hit about 30 feet below the ridge and spread a debris field over the top and down the east side of the mountain. With the exception of what looked to be a very large landing gear strut, most of identifiable pieces of the plane had been removed. But the bushes on the east slope were covered with small deteriorating scraps of blue and grey plastic material, very likely upholstery covers and/or cabin trim. At the peak of the ridge, centered on the impact site, visitors, probably over a period of time, had built a rock cairn, close to 6-feet tall and personal property that folks had found around the crash site – wallets, shoes, glasses etc.

– had been placed on the rocks of the cairn. I was impressed with how respectfully the site seemed to have been treated.”

As a runner he revisited the site on occasion. Eventually the debris was removed or nature covered it.

Opinion: Property crime rising in S. Lake Tahoe



Source: SLTPD

By Brian Uhler

In order to keep you informed, the South Lake Tahoe Police Department will be compiling a monthly report to the community. This report will provide the latest information about crimes and give some crime prevention tips that might help us be a safer and more secure community.

In January, we completed our annual Uniform Crime Report. Details about the Uniform Crime Reporting system along with searchable databases about crime nationally, in California,

other cities, and South Lake Tahoe may be found online.

The five-year trend for South Lake Tahoe is very clear. Property crime is up and violent crime appears to be fairly flat. Last summer we interrupted a ring of burglars through a surveillance effort that led to their arrest in Nevada. Recovery of a large amount of property came about through these arrests.



Brian Uhler

Many of the aggravated assaults were related to gang and drug activities in our community. Domestic violence is also disproportionately high.

In 2013, there were 131 burglaries, 89 aggravated assaults and 16 robberies.

On the positive side, SLEDNET [South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team], which combats drug related crime, is being supported in our region even though the state has withdrawn funding. Further, the SLTPD partners with Live Violence Free to help curb domestic violence.

So, what can we do about crime? Some simple crime prevention efforts enacted by our entire community can help. For a crime to occur, there are: (1) a target or victim, (2) a criminal, and (3) opportunity. When opportunity is eliminated, crimes do not occur. The thing you control is opportunity so here are three things you can do to take away or minimize a criminal’s opportunity:

• Keep your property secure.

• Stay aware of your surroundings and people who may pose a threat.

• Alert the police quickly to suspicious circumstances

Brian Uhler is the police chief in South Lake Tahoe.

Artists sought for duck stamp competition

Artists may submit original artwork for the 2014-15 California duck stamp art contest put on by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Submissions will be accepted from April 25 through May 23.

The contest is open to U.S. residents who are 18 or older. Entrants need not reside in California.

The winning artwork will be reproduced on the 2014-15 California duck stamp. The top submissions will also be showcased at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association’s art show in July.

The artwork must depict the species selected by the California Fish and Game Commission, which this year is the scaup (lesser or greater).

All entries must be accompanied by a completed participation agreement and entry form. These forms and the official rules are available online.

SAT scores relevant to some employers

By Melissa Korn, Wall Street Journal

Stephen Robert Morse was a candidate for a communications job when the recruiter told him to be ready to discuss his SAT score in a coming interview.

Morse, 28, said he was “shocked” that a potential boss would be interested in the results of a test he took more than a decade earlier. He passed on the opportunity.

Proving the adage that all of life is like high school, plenty of employers still care about a job candidate’s SAT score. Consulting firms such as Bain & Co. and McKinsey & Co. and banks like Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ask new college recruits for their scores, while other companies request them even for senior sales and management hires, eliciting scores from job candidates in their 40s and 50s.

Read the whole story

FDA overhauling food labels

By Ryan Jaslow, CBS

Nutrition fact labels are finally undergoing a makeover. The Food and Drug Administration has proposed new changes to labels on food packaging that are aimed at making them easier

to understand – the first major update since about 1994.

Under the changes, serving sizes will be made easier to understand, calories will be featured more prominently and for the first time, added sugars will be included.

The label updates aim to incorporate the new science that has since come out on how eating foods might raise risk for obesity and chronic disease, according to the FDA. For example, old labels focused more on fats, but calorie consumption is what really drives weight gain and obesity, researchers have since determined.

Read the whole story