Rebelution and Matisyahu coming to South Shore

Rebelution and Matisyahu will bring their Island-fused rock spirited jams and blissful irie grooves to Lake Tahoe on Aug. 21.

Known for their grassroots blend of soul and rhythm beats capped with messages of world peace, Rebelution and Matisyahu, along with special guests Collie Buddz and Zion-I, have spent the summer headlining music festivals nationwide on the Good Vibes 2013 Tour.

The MontBleu show n Stateline begins at 6pm.

Tickets are $30 in advance and $35 the day of the show. Contact Ticketmaster or the MontBleu – 888.829.7630.

Opinion: Douglas County doing its part to preserve Tahoe

By Steve Mokrohisky

The future of Lake Tahoe's natural and built environment, as well as how best to protect its pristine waters, has been debated at length over the past several years. The conclusion of thousands of residents, visitors, businesses, environmentalists, scientists, local governments and others who participated in the Tahoe Regional Plan update is that the status quo is unacceptable and the need to improve the

environment, economy and community through redevelopment is imperative.

On Aug. 28, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board will consider approval of Douglas County's local area plan for the South Shore of Lake Tahoe. The new area plan is the first to be developed under TRPA's Regional Plan update, was created through years of extensive public engagement and encourages environmental redevelopment of existing buildings.



Steve Mokrohisky

Leading the way as the first entity to propose a new local area plan, Douglas County has appropriately been held to the highest standard of environmental review and has welcomed the opportunity to gather public feedback, answer questions and engage in thoughtful dialogue about how to ensure the best local plan for the South Shore and the future of Lake Tahoe.

Despite broad public support and clear data detailing the environmental benefits of the new plan, a representative from the Sierra Club stated recently in a radio interview that "local governments can't be trusted to hold the line on development."

Unfortunately, inflammatory statements like this ignore the facts on the ground and offer no solutions to improve the environment. In the interest of transparent and thoughtful public debate, let us consider the facts.

Strong record on the environment

Douglas County, its businesses and residents have a strong record of investment in environmental improvements. Nearly $1.7 billion has been invested in environmental improvements at Lake Tahoe since 1997, including over 31 water quality and erosion control projects in Douglas County.

Eighteen percent of Lake Tahoe's shoreline resides in Douglas County, but only 3 percent of the fine sediment material that degrades the clarity of the lake originates in Douglas County – the least amount of runoff of any jurisdiction in the Tahoe basin.

In addition, Douglas County businesses and residents have some of the highest best management practice compliance rates in the Tahoe basin. As a result of these investments, the clarity of Lake Tahoe is already beginning to improve.

Beyond Lake Tahoe, Douglas County has protected over 15,000 acres in the Carson Valley and seeks to protect an additional 15,000 acres as part of its federal lands bill. The county has spent five years developing its lands bill, not because there is a bi-state regulatory agency requiring it to protect the environment, but rather because our local residents and local government have chosen environmental stewardship as the right thing to do for future generations.

We don't need more, we need better

The vast majority of future projects will be redevelopment of existing infrastructure, not new development. There is very little available private land to build on in Douglas County at Lake Tahoe, as only 16 percent of the land is in private ownership, only eight residential building allocations are allowed this year and only 36,250 square feet is available for new commercial projects.

Local businesses and lodging industry experts are often the first to remind us that we don't need more hotel rooms in the South Shore, as we already have thousands of tourist units

with an average rate of less than $100 and an annual occupancy rate of 28 percent. Many of these units should be relocated, redeployed or retired, thereby reducing the quantity and improving the quality.

Too much of the built environment at Lake Tahoe is blighted and has outlived its useful life, resulting in harm to the health of the natural environment. Private investment in redevelopment of existing buildings will allow residents and businesses to improve their properties, increase energy efficiency, reduce storm water runoff and enhance the economic and environmental quality in the Tahoe basin.

The Edgewood Lodge project is a great example of private investment that seeks to improve the environment by preventing 500,000 pounds of sediment per year from entering Lake Tahoe, restoring numerous acres of wetlands and improving recreational opportunities, while increasing the quality of lodging and economic vitality in the area. The environmentally beneficial redevelopment projects under the old Regional Plan have been exhausted. We need the new Regional Plan and local area plans that encourage environmental gain through redevelopment.

There is no question that thousands of people are unified in the strong desire to improve the environment through redevelopment at Lake Tahoe. There is also no question that open and thoughtful public debate supported by facts is at the cornerstone of our democracy.

So, the next time you hear someone claim that the new Regional Plan update and local area plans will result in harm to the environment, ask them for facts to support their claim, as well as solutions to improve the environment, economy and community. Those of us who live, work and play in Douglas County are committed to keeping Lake Tahoe blue and turning our community green.

Steve Mokrohisky is county manager of Douglas County and served as Nevada's local government representative on the bi-state consultation group that facilitated solutions to the final draft of the Regional Plan update. This column is written on behalf of Douglas County and its Board of Commissioners.

Man of interest sought in S. Tahoe murder case

South Lake Tahoe police officers want to speak to a man who was seen near the USA gas station just before the store clerk was murdered Aug. 6.

In the late afternoon/early evening of Aug. 5 a man was seen walking in the vicinity of the gas station. Detectives want to identify the man. He is a white male, with light brown or blond hair, wearing a light colored polo shirt.

Information may be provided to the police department at (530) 542.6100.

A reward for information leading to an arrest in this case has been increased to $6,000 because of contributions by local business owners.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Temple Bat Yam celebrating 30th anniversary

Temple Bat Yam is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a weekend of festivities, Aug. 16-18.

On Friday at 6pm at the temple (3260 Pioneer Trail, South Lake Tahoe) there will be a pre-shabbat nosh. At 6:3pm, there will be a "Friday Night Live" with Sam Glaser, world renown entertainer.

On Saturday at 9am, there will be a breakfast at the temple, followed by various outdoor activities.

At 7:30pm at TBY, (tickets available at 6:30pm), there will be a talent show with singers, pianists, guitarists, ukulele players singing "Sunrise Sunset", a harpist playing Broadway melodies, original dramatic poetry readings, Hawaiian dancers; a recitation-song of "If I Were a Rich Man" from "Fiddler on the Roof"; and

keyboard playing and singing by Sam Glaser.

On Sunday, there will be a brunch at Casino Fandango in Carson City.

The weekend events are also a fundraiser for Temple Bat Yam. Admission for the entire weekend is $130 for one person, $330 for up to six people in a family and $65 per event for one person. Bring a check to Temple Bat Yam on Thursday or Friday from noon to 5pm, or for a credit card, call (530) 542.1211 on those dates at those times.

For more information, email tbycelebrating30@aol.com.

Study: Climate change may help redwoods

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News

Climate change is melting glaciers, worsening droughts and raising sea levels around the world.

But when it comes to redwood trees – the ancient, iconic sentinels that scientists have worried may be at risk as the planet heats up – global warming may actually be helping, at least for now, according to research released Wednesday.

“We’re not seeing any evidence of declining growth rates,” said Steve Sillett, a forestry professor at Humboldt State and nationally known redwoods expert. “In fact, a lot of the sites are exhibiting increasing rates of growth over the last 100 years.”

It may be that the trees prefer warmer temperatures, or that they are benefiting from more sunlight, a longer growing season or even decades of fire suppression. Or they might even be responding well to higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Nobody knows yet.

Read the whole story

But Sillett and other researchers working on an ambitious, four-year study found that growth rates of coastal redwoods and giant sequoia trees in California’s old-growth forests increased during the 20th century, even as other parts of the Earth’s environment – from polar bears to coral reefs – suffered from climate change.

Family hurt; suspected drunken driver arrested

A Pennsylvania woman and her two children were hospitalized Tuesday after the vehicle they were in was hit by an alleged drunken driver.

Dara Siev, 39, of South Lake Tahoe was headed west on Highway 50 in the left lane when the Dodge Durango he was driving drifted into the center lane. A Ford Escape was stopped in the center lane ready to turn left.

South Lake Tahoe police officers said Siev was going between 35 and 45 mph when his vehicle hit the Ford with the three of Pennsylvanians; whose names police are not disclosing.

The woman and her 4- and 8-year-old children were taken to Barton Memorial Hospital with what police say were not life threatening injuries.

The accident occurred about 4:45pm Aug. 13 near Blue Lake Avenue.

Siev was arrested on felony DUI charges.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

SLT cops recover stolen goods; 1 person in custody

A South Lake Tahoe man was arrested Tuesday for allegedly possessing stolen property.

Eric Beaman, 26, was arrested at a residence on Armstrong Avenue on Aug. 13, which is also where officers said they recovered items they suspect were stolen from "several vacation rental burglaries."

Police have not bothered to say when these burglaries occurred, where they occurred, what types of times were stolen or how suspects gained entry. But they would like anyone who has had something stolen to contact them at (530) 542.6100.

And there is another suspect who got away from officers earlier Tuesday who may have something to do with a motorcycle they recovered that had been stolen in July. An arrest warrant is being sought, but officers won't give out any information on the suspect. They said in a press release that the person's identity "may be made public" when the warrant is issued.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Power back on along West Shore

Updated 5:15pm:

Power has been restored.

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Power is out along much of the West Shore because a tree service company dropped a tree onto a power line.

Liberty Utilities crews are on site, but have no estimated time of when the lights will come back on.

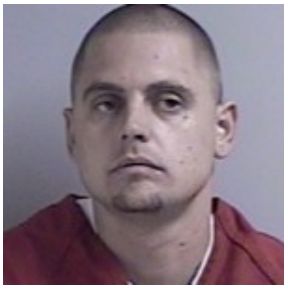
The outage occurred just before 3pm Aug. 14 and is affecting about 4,100 customers from Emerald Bay to Tahoe City.

The downed line is near the Tahoe Ski Bowl area in Homewood.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

S. Tahoe man accused of murdering family member

Police arrested a South Lake Tahoe man today in the stabbing death of a 57-year-old woman.



Sean-Paul Andrew MacIntire

Sean-Paul Andrew MacIntire, 32, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Shirley Gordon. The two are

related, but police aren't saying how. They don't even know where Gordon resided.

MacIntire's mother, who was at the Wildwood Avenue house when the stabbing occurred, called officers to the residence Aug. 14 at 1:45am. Mother and son live there together. She is not a suspect in the crime, according to police.

Police said the victim was on the couch when she was killed.

Anyone with information is asked to call the SLTPD at (530) 542.6100 or Secret Witness at (530) 541.6800.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Alpine County fish kill to begin this month

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state Department of Fish and Wildlife plan to begin a Paiute cutthroat trout restoration project later this month in Alpine County.

The project area is in a remote part of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness in the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

The goal is to establish native Paiute cutthroat trout as the only trout species in Silver King Creek. This is a tributary of the East Fork of the Carson River. This is the only place in the world where this fish lives.

Rotenone – a chemical that will kill the fish officials don't want to exist – will be added to 11 stream miles of the creek and its tributaries from Llewellyn Falls to Silver King Canyon. Tamarack Creek, Tamarack Lake Creek and Coyote Valley

Creek will also be treated with Rotenone.

For more info, call the USFWS at (775) 861.6300.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report