Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, R-O'Neals, is having a community coffee July 8 at 9:30am at Centro Coffee House, 385 Main St. in Placerville.

• Services for Irene Morris are June 29 at 1pm at Hope Lutheran Church in South Lake Tahoe. Cards may be sent to the family (children Darlene, Cathy, and Paul) at P.O Box 16817, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

• TAMBA is hosting a trail day June 29 in conjunction with Adventure Sports Week. Meet at 9am at Tahoe Cross Country at 925 Country Club Drive in Tahoe City before riding up to the worksite off Forest Service Road 16N49.

• South Lake Tahoe Fireman's Association will have a pool tournament fundraiser on June 30 at 2pm at Classic Cue, 1965 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. It costs $15 in advance to enter or $20 that day. For more info, email Mikemileski460@hotmail.com.

• Squaw Valley is showing free movies every Thursday through August starting at 8:30pm in the Events Plaza at the village. Blankets and warm clothes are recommended.

Plenty of variety in Tahoe

luxury home market

By Kathryn Reed

For those with $42.995 million to spend it will get you a lakefront compound on five parcels with four houses. Those looking for some history might be interested in the former Howard Hughes estate that is selling for $19.5 million. Those with a more modest budget should check out the $2.495 million cabin that was built in 1926.

These were just three of the 23 houses available to tour on June 26 during the 17th annual Chase International Lake Tahoe Lakefront and Luxury Estates Tour.

Agent Sue Lowe, who organizes the event, was at a house on Skyland Boulevard that is going for $4.95 million. She explains Nevada property taxes to a potential buyer – how they aren't configured anything like California's, and how Douglas County where the house is located has much lower taxes than Washoe County.



The living area of this Fallen Leaf Lake house is inviting. Photos/Kathryn Reed

Most of the houses on this tour are right on the water.

Lowe tells *Lake Tahoe News* these properties are still the most

appreciated in the basin, with lake views second most popular.

It’s the rare property that has a pier, boathouse and sandy beach. Some don’t have any of those amenities. This house has the beach – which in itself is rare for this side of the lake, which is traditionally rockier.

The houses are all over the board in terms of what they look like from the outside, the character inside and the price range. The least expensive was $2.195 million in Meeks Bay. The most expensive was $42.995 million in Incline Village, which was recently reduced from $49.9 million.

The latter is known as Sierra Star. Tom Gonzales, founder of Commerce One, assembled the five parcels that have four houses. In what is called the Carriage House he used to have 100 motorcycles. There is 2,000-square-feet of garage space.

Below that is 10,000-square-feet – mostly concrete. A lift that can hold 250,000 pounds is off to the side.

The top floor is another 2,000-square-feet. It’s where the mechanics and others lived.

The main house is 10,000-square-feet. The other two structures – or guesthouses – are each 4,000-square-feet.

It’s possible to buy the whole 4.3-acre compound or pieces of it.

“The luxury market is heating up with increased activity around the lake,” Lowe says.

In the last eight months two houses on the lake each sold for more than $20 million. That hadn’t happened since 2008.

December 2012 was the hottest December that Lowe can remember. She attributes it to Californians being fearful about Proposition 30 and wanting out of the state, as well as the uncertainty of what the capital gains rate would be.

“In California, people realize we’ve hit bottom and if they want a slice of heaven, they need to do so now to get the best possible price,” Lowe said.

Another house that had lots of visitors on Wednesday was the property in Crystal Bay that was once owned by Howard Hughes. It’s known as Summertide.

The price tag is $19.5 million. The kitchen is small, but it’s been remodeled and feels very modern with the granite and high-end appliances.

The main area has a rustic, comfortable feel to it. The bottom floor has three rooms that seem more like hotel rooms with a shared balcony.

Someone on the tour said it’s about 200 steps down to the cottage that is closer to the water. Even from there it’s more steps to the alcove.

A cabin sandwiched between two larger homes is selling for $2.495 million. It was built in 1926 and feels like it hasn’t had any upgrades since the 1970s. There is no insulation, according the agent stationed at the property.

From the deck looking right is Zephyr Cove Resort — a quiet and raucous neighbor depending on the time of the year.

Another oldie is the $2.295 spread in Cascade Properties. It was built in 1961 and the original family is selling it. It’s been on the market two weeks. The driveway is harrowing and the inside stairs are probably not up to code. The setting is idyllic. The land is what this is about, not the house.

Out at Fallen Leaf Lake is a $4.495 million three-cabin spread. It also comes with three docks. The spaciousness of the main room in the largest of the three buildings would be ideal for entertaining, as would the kitchen.

The deck on one of the cabins is about as big as the interior.

According to Lowe, the market is improving in all price ranges – not just the seven-plus figure houses.

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Shaun White taking music act on the road

By Huffington Post

If Shaun White's latest career move is any indication, the 26-year-old Olympic gold medalist who trains at Northstar refuses to be remembered as simply The Flying Tomato. The snowboarder/skateboarder has now signed his first major-labor record deal.

White's band, Bad Things, is expected to release its debut album later this year on Warner Bros. Records, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*. White is one-fifth of Bad Things, which he formed in Los Angeles with childhood pals Anthony Sanudo (guitar) and Lena Zawaideh (drums). David LeDuke, formerly the lead singer of glam-punk band Billy Boy on Poison, will serve as frontman, while former Augustana member Jared Palomar will play bass.

Rob Schnapf (Beck, Elliot Smith, Tokyo Police Club) will produce the album. The band's first single, the indie rock-sounding track "Caught Inside," is currently streaming on SoundCould.

Bad Things also announced their first headlining tour, which kicks off July 11 in New York City and concludes Aug. 9 in

Minneapolis.

Opinion: What you need to know about gay marriage

Although I wish I could take credit for this, I can't:

Millions of people, most of whom are neither gay nor looking to get same-sex married, are loudly asking on the Internet how exactly this case impacts their life.

For them we have provided a handy guide:

If you are a homosexual and are already married:

The federal government now recognizes your marriage as a thing, and you are eligible for tax, health, and pension benefits under federal law like any other married couple, pending further political shenanigans. You can file taxes jointly, all that stuff.

If you are a homosexual and want to get married:

This does nothing to affect you *unless* you live in California. States are still free to decide whether or not same-sex marriage is legal; if you live in Mississippi, this does not help you. But, the voter initiative to ban gay marriage in California is now dead, pending further legal challenges or other shenanigans.

If you are a heterosexual and do not want to enter into a homosexual marriage:

You will not be required to marry a gay person. This is a

common misunderstanding. This decision actually does not affect you in any way.

If you are currently in a heterosexual marriage:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a heterosexual who is not currently married:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a heterosexual who hopes to eventually marry:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a member of a church that performs wedding ceremonies but that does not believe in gay marriage:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a religious official who performs wedding ceremonies but who thinks gay marriage is wrong:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are an individual who believes gay marriage or homosexuality in general is wrong for religious reasons, and wish to continue expressing those beliefs:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are an individual who believes gay marriage or homosexuality in general is wrong for non-religious reasons, and wish to continue expressing those beliefs:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a heterosexual who fears this decision adversely affects your marriage or the concept of marriage in general:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a heterosexual who fears this decision negatively affects you in some way:

This decision does not affect you in any way.

If you are a heterosexual who suffers anger or anxiety at the thought of gay couples getting married as an abstract concept, and believes the only cure is to legally prevent gay marriage:

This decision will cause you some degree of anger or anxiety. Otherwise, this decision does not affect you in any way.

Hope this helps!

— Submitted by John Spinola, South Lake Tahoe

Children can learn about composting

“Dig into Reading” this summer at the Douglas County library.

The Zephyr Cove library is sponsoring “Composting Worms on Tour” with Craig Witt from Full Circle Compost. Come to the gazebo in Zephyr Cove Park on July 11 at 1:30pm to learn about the natural process of composting. Plant a vegetable plant in a pot to take home.

Children ages 5 to 12 will receive a free book.

Zephyr Cove Park gazebo is located off Warrior Way behind the library.

For more info, call (775) 588.6411.

Opinion: Freedoms are eroding in the United States

Publisher's note: ***Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Granite Bay, on June 27 delivered the following remarks on the House floor.***

Mr. Speaker:

Three major developments have occurred within the last six weeks that are each disturbing by themselves, but extremely alarming when viewed together.

The first was the revelation that for more than two years, one of the most powerful and feared agencies of the federal government was used to harass and intimidate individual Americans based upon their political beliefs.



Tom McClintock

Evidence has already established that hundreds of conservative groups were subjected to invasive interrogations when they sought to participate in the political process. This pattern of conduct was not limited to applications under section 501(c), but included audits of established conservative groups and individuals as well. This conduct reached the highest levels of the IRS. A similar pattern of abuse has been demonstrated in several other agencies including the

Department of Labor and the Environmental Protection Agency.

These facts are undisputed and their implications are utterly toxic to a free society.

The second development was news that the Justice Department had surreptitiously seized the telephone records of some 20 reporters covering Congress for the Associated Press in an obvious attempt to discourage whistleblowers from talking to the press.

Fox News reporter James Rosen and his family were stalked by authorities as he tried to get to the bottom of the Benghazi scandal. To obtain the search warrant to allow this, the Attorney General of the United States filed an absolutely spurious claim with the federal court charging that Rosen had conspired to violate the Espionage Act – the same act under which the Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed in 1953.

The message to reporters asking inconvenient questions of the administration could not possibly have been more powerful or terrifying. And this week, the head of AP reported that their news sources have dried up in response to these naked acts of intimidation.

The third development is that the federal government has swept up the phone and internet records of millions of Americans in the name of state security.

The practice of the government searching your personal records without having first established reason to believe you have committed a crime is expressly forbidden by the Fourth Amendment –which was adopted in direct response to British officials indiscriminately searching homes and records for evidence of contraband.

Yet this government has done precisely that on a scale unimaginable in colonial times searching for evidence of terrorism.

If I know what websites you've visited and what phone numbers you've called – I know a very great deal about your political and religious beliefs, your personal relationships, your sexual interests, your mental and physical health, your family finances.

And with that information in the hands of officials who have already demonstrated a clear willingness and ability to use their power to intimidate political adversaries into silence and to discourage reporters from asking embarrassing questions, our society could very quickly cross a very bright line between freedom and authoritarianism.

As if to underscore the point, the administration's spokesman recently told a national television audience that quote – "the law is irrelevant." He called these matters "a distraction." What does that say about a society that once prided itself on being a nation of laws and not of men?

All around us in this Capitol are the trappings of the Roman Republic. They serve as an inspiration – but also as a warning.

The Roman Republic didn't end because Caesar crossed the Rubicon with his legion. It ended because that illegal act was not effectively resisted and led to another usurpation and then another and then another over a period of years. It was the accumulation of many such infringements that brought the inexorable decline of freedom and set the stage for Rome's age of tyrants.

That is what Jefferson meant when he said the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. My great fear, as we adjourn tomorrow to celebrate the 237th anniversary of American freedom, is that sometime between the barbecues and the fireworks we shrug off these profound developments and go about as if nothing has happened.

This summer of 2013 has brought us to a crossroads, and I rise

today to urge the House to give these events its full and undivided attention. All the facts surrounding these matters must be fully laid out, those responsible held fully accountable, and the rule of law – and especially of our Constitution – fully restored.

Glenbrook contending with unwanted bears

By Kathryn Reed

A bear was captured in Glenbrook on Monday by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and released the next day near Mount Rose.

According to Linda Bradley, manager of the Glenbrook Homeowners Association, the last time the state was asked to trap a bear in their neighborhood was in 2008.

She told *Lake Tahoe News* this particular yearling was not scared off by loud noises as other bears are. She also didn't want to run the risk of it entering a home, when then the consequences for the bear could be fatal.



Bears in Tahoe neighborhoods

is a fairly common thing.
Photo/LTN file

Bradley said she spoke with the BEAR League this week about policies at Glenbrook and invited the animal organization to speak at a community event to make people more bear-aware.

Two to three other bears consider these 750 acres home, Bradley said.

Chris Healy with NDOW said there are two traps in the general Glenbrook area still.

“They have bears that are doing some property damage,” Healy told *Lake Tahoe News*. “People have concerns the bears are not afraid enough of humans.”

Glenbrook has community bear-proof dumpsters for people to leave their trash in, which is encouraged if they are vacation renters or leaving before trash day.

The rumor that the homeowners are trying to get rid of beavers is not true, according to Healy. He said the last time Glenbrook HOA asked for a depredation permit was in 2008.

However, two active beaver permits have been issued to Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course. And there is an ongoing permit for Incline Creek.

With beavers being large rodents, they cannot be trapped and relocated. This is true for all regions of the country.

“Is the life of that one animal worth all the damage that is happening?” – that is one criteria of whether a permit will be issued, Healy explained.

With the controversial permit for Incline that was first issued last year, the beavers were impacting a sewer line, which could lead to a messy spill that would have the potential of reaching Lake Tahoe.

Healy said beavers are an on again, off again issue in the basin.

North Shore water shuttle back on the lake

The seasonal North Tahoe Water Shuttle has resumed operations.

The boat will service Tahoe City, Tahoe Vista, Carnelian Bay and two Homewood docks though Labor Day weekend.

For reservations or more more info, go online or call (530) 581.8708.

Boat patrols to be out in mass on Lake Tahoe

The South Lake Tahoe Police Department marine units will be actively involved in California law enforcement officers Operation Dry Water June 28-30.



Officers Steve O’Brien and Dave Gottlieb on the SLTPD boat. Photo/LTN file

Operation Dry Water is an annual nationwide effort to highlight the risks and dangers of operating boats under the influence. The stepped up enforcement raises awareness of operating boats under the influence of alcohol or drugs in advance of the Fourth of July holiday.

Alcohol can impair a boater’s judgment, balance, vision and reaction time. It can increase fatigue and susceptibility to the effect of cold-water immersion. Sun, wind, noise, vibration and motion – “stressors” common to the boating environment – intensify the side effects of alcohol, drugs and some prescription medications.

In California, it is against the law to operate a boat with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more. A person with a BAC less than 0.08 percent may also be arrested if conditions are deemed to be unsafe.

Day devoted to dads and kids

in S. Tahoe

Live Violence Free will be hosting an event on June 29 for dad’s and their children with the support of the El Dorado County Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Make kites and bird feeders. Then enjoy a free lunch and vie for prizes.

The event is from 11am-2:30pm at Regan Beach in South Lake Tahoe.

For more info, contact Frank Blakeney at (530) 544.2118, ext. 7620 or fblakeney@liveviolencefree.org.