

Tahoe's imperfections, quirks come to life on stage

CAMP RICHARDSON – “Guilty Pleasures” – it’s *the* musical comedy of the Lake Tahoe Basin that doesn’t matter who is offended. And that’s a good thing.

With new songs about the Ta-hole, an amped-up version of living with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, an update on what it means to be a local, the dysfunction of the city of South Lake Tahoe, how incomprehensible it is that the basin doesn’t have regional transit, and praise of raising the speed limit on Highway 50 – it’s all in this play.



"Guilty Pleasures" will be at the Boathouse Theatre on Saturday and Sunday.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

With only two shows left (Saturday night and Sunday afternoon), it’s a must see.

With new songs, more robust voices and vignettes that are relevant in 2012, this play captures several slices of life in Tahoe.

– Kathryn Reed

Halogen lights to illuminate Lake Tahoe Airport taxiway

South Lake Tahoe is in the process of acquiring approximately \$25,000 worth of used halogen taxiway lights from Reno airport.

City employee Lee Brown was instrumental in obtaining the lights. Brown was borrowing stencils from Reno-Tahoe International Airport when officials offered the lights which had been marked to be disposed of as surplus materials.

The 280 gently used taxiway lights are halogen which are energy efficient and will help Lake Tahoe Airport save on electrical costs.

Brown explained that the couplers on the light fixtures commonly break during the snow removal.

Fallen Soldiers ride to stop in South Tahoe

Nevada's inaugural Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Motorcycle Ride and Gold Star event is Aug. 3-5.

The ride will start and end at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno.

The ride will be escorted by law enforcement and make a stop at Bijou Community Park in South Lake Tahoe on Aug. 4 at 1pm. The riders will be treated to a barbecue lunch, while 10 families of fallen soldiers from the Tahoe-Reno area will be presented certificates of honor by South Lake Tahoe Councilman Tom Davis.

Eldorado National Forest imposing fire restrictions

Fire restrictions go into effect in the western half of Eldorado National Forest beginning Aug. 7.

Campfires and charcoal barbecues will be restricted to designated recreation sites and other fire related activities will be prohibited until the end of fire season.

The new Eldorado National Forest fire restriction plan divides the forest into western and eastern zones. The dividing line between the zones is approximately the 6,000 foot elevation. The edge of the restriction zones follows marked roads as much as possible.

A map showing the location of the zones is displayed on the Eldorado National Forest website.

Quilt show on the West Slope

Gold Bug Quilters of El Dorado County is having its biannual quilt show Sept. 7-8 in Placerville.

Money raised goes for scholarships, education and the making quilts for local needy organizations.

The show is at the Church of the Foothills, 2380 Merrychase Drive, Cameron Park. The show is 10am to 5pm on that Friday and until 4pm that Saturday.

Admission is \$7, and for men it's free.

Truckee plane crash victim was from Yreka

By KTVN-TV

The Nevada County coroner's office has identified the pilot killed in Thursday's plane crash in Truckee.

They say 66-year-old James Ungar – part of the Flying Doctors – was leaving for a humanitarian mission in Mexico when the plane crashed.

The Flying Doctors Facebook page says the Yreka man had two other volunteers onboard before the crash.

But when they were having trouble taking off, he had them get off the plane.

No one on the ground was hurt in the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating exactly what caused the crash.

Researcher to talk about emotional reaction to wildland fires

Destiny Aman, a doctoral student in the Penn State University Department of Geography, has been conducting doctoral research on how emotion interacts with wildfire hazard perception in the wildland urban interface, which is the area where homes and other structures border or intermingle with forests, shrubs and grasslands.

Aman has interviewed more than 80 residents, fire, and community managers in Truckee.

As wildfire size and intensity continues to grow, researchers are beginning to uncover the importance of the emotional relationships that residents have with certain places that, in turn, affect the perception, communication, and reduction of risk in the wildland-urban interface.

Aman will be sharing her findings on Aug. 6 from 5-6:30pm in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 10183 Truckee Airport Road.

Restrooms at El Dorado Beach to be installed

Melnikov Construction of Carmichael will begin Aug. 6 to build the restrooms at the El Dorado Beach Boat Ramp Parking lot.

Parking and access for the boat ramp and the Lakeview Commons site will be impacted. The ramp will be open for launches, as the construction will only take a portion of the access. The parking lot however, will have portions fenced off.

Any questions related to the project should be directed to Jim Marino (530) 542.6027.

Comments sought on North Tahoe biomass facility

Comments are being taken on the draft environmental impact report for a proposed 2-megawatt wood-to-energy biomass plant to be built near the North Lake Tahoe.

There will also be a public hearing on the report Aug. 30 at 1pm at Granlibakken Resort in Tahoe City.

The facility, which would be built between Tahoe City and Truckee on Highway 89. It would turn slash into energy at Cabin Creek.

The draft EIR is online. The comment deadline is Sept. 10.

The public comment period on the draft environmental report began Friday and runs through Sept. 10. More information on

the environmental document visit .

Report: Climate change threatens California electric supply

By Rory Carroll, Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO – California's electricity sector is more vulnerable to climate change than previously thought, as higher temperatures will impede the state's ability to generate and transmit power while demand for air conditioning rises, a report said Tuesday.

The data is part of the latest report released by the California Natural Resources Agency and the California Energy Commission, which are trying to help state and local leaders prepare for life in the hotter, drier California of the future.

Wildlife, agriculture and coastal communities are also at serious risk from climate change, the report said. Sea levels could rise by more than a foot by 2050, and more intense storms combined with less overall precipitation will present a host of challenges.

California is considered a national leader in setting policies to combat climate change, with a strong renewable electricity mandate in place and a carbon cap-and-trade program coming

into force next year.

“We know that climate change will significantly affect the state’s energy supply and demand,” said Robert B. Weisenmiller, chair of the California Energy Commission.

“This groundbreaking research gives us the data and analytical tools we need to better plan, forecast and prepare to meet the state’s energy needs as we face climate challenges,” he said.

The warmer climate will decrease hydropower generation in the summer months when it is needed most, the report said. High-elevation hydropower plants, which supply about 75 percent of the state’s hydropower, are especially at risk, since the small size of their reservoirs allows little flexibility to cope with reduced snowpack.

At the same time, higher temperatures alone will require the state to increase its electricity generating capacity 38 percent over current levels by 2100.

The report notes that renewable energy facilities, like wind and solar, are less threatened by climate change conditions, use less water, and produce none of the heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions that come from natural gas-fired plants.

California has set a goal of cutting its output of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, the most ambitious target of any state.

The ability to move electricity from power plants to end users will also be threatened by climate change, since electrical transmission lines lose 7 to 8 percent of their transmitting capacity in high temperatures – just when demand for power rises.

Key transmission corridors are also vulnerable to more frequent and severe wildfires. The report said that the threat

of wildfire to the transmission lines will increase by 40 percent.

Transmission lines with a high risk of wildfire interference include those that bring hydropower from the Pacific Northwest into California during peak demand periods as well as the lines bring power to the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Those risks can be reduced by introducing more locally produced and distributed electricity, the report said.

Statewide average temperatures are expected to climb by 2.7 degrees above 2000 averages by 2050, according to climate scientists.

That will lead to an increase in mortality and health problems for at-risk populations, the report said.

The hotter climate will also mean that by the latter half of the century, dry water years are expected to increase by 8 percent in the Sacramento Valley and by 32 percent in the San Joaquin Valley, compared to the latter half of the 20th century.

The rise in sea level along California's coastline is also expected to accelerate, climbing 10 to 18 inches higher by 2050 and 31-55 inches higher by the end of this century. That creates the risk of saltwater intrusion into coastal groundwater supplies and into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

"These studies show that climate change is being felt in California now and will have more severe impacts in the future unless we plan ahead," said Susanne Moser, a Santa-Cruz based researcher who contributed to the assessment studies.