Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Bona Fide Books' author Lexa Hillyer, who won the 2011 Melissa Lanitis Gregory Poetry Prize, was just awarded gold in the national Foreword Book of the Year Award 2012 for Poetry for her collection "Acquainted with the Cold." Bona Fide is a small press based in Meyers.

• Looking for a grow house in South Lake Tahoe? Just go to CraigsList.

• Placer County officials are reminding residents and visitors that fireworks of all sizes and types are illegal in unincorporated areas of the county. Anyone caught violating the fireworks ban could be charged with a misdemeanor and face a fine of up to $2,000 per violation.

• A new cell site in El Dorado County should be making easier and faster for people using the Verizon wireless network. The site is designed to improve wireless network coverage and capacity in the Placerville area, including the Somerset community.

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• Kirkwood is hosting a 10-day mountain bike festival Aug. 19-28. More info is online.

• Lake Tahoe has been nominated as the eighth wonder of the world. Voting is taking place through September. More info is online.

• Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedule from Caltrans for the coming week.

• For Truckee residents generating large quantities of yard waste, the town has extended the free yard waste drop-off at the Eastern Regional Landfill through July.

• Due to increasing temperatures, fire restrictions in Eldorado National Forest will expand to include the entire forest starting July 1.

Then and now: ZIP codes turn 50

Coming up this Monday is the 50th anniversary of the Zone Improvement Plan.

The what?

It was July 1, 1963, when the U.S. Postal Service introduced its "ZIP Code" – the Zone Improvement Plan – which since has become ubiquitous in mailing, locating, and shipping.

And now it's used widely also for non-postal information such as determining auto insurance rates by zone, or pinpointing your local weather forecast, et cetera, all based on your ZIP Code.

In 1942, the U.S. Post Office had established only generalized area address zones, such as “Los Angeles 54, Calif.”

In 1962, a postal employee proposed a Zone Improvement Plan (ZIP) to direct mail to specific offices. For example, the Empire State Building has its own ZIP code. Today, there are more than 43,000 ZIP codes in the United States.



Historically, all South Tahoe mail was delivered only to P.O. boxes at six post offices: one at Stateline absorbed into what became the Crescent V Center; one at what was the main post office at the corner of Takela and Sandy Way in Bijou (now vacant); an Al Tahoe office where Denny’s Diner now stands; plus Tahoe Valley; Camp Richardson’ and Meyers stations.

The Al Tahoe P.O. wood-frame building (now the Denny’s site) was picked-up and replanted on Highway 50 opposite the Sno-Flake Drive In and it now houses the Tahoe Art League gallery. A replacement Al Tahoe post office then opened in what is now The Cork & More.

In 1973 the current large main post office opened diagonally neighboring The Cork & More.

The historic Camp Richardson P.O. (now the “confectionery”) was absorbed into the Tahoe Valley office about 1960.

South Lake Tahoe has had several ZIP code changes since 1963, prompted initially by the 1965 incorporation of the city which needed a ZIP Code. Over the years, we’ve had 95729, 95730, 95731, 95702, 95705 and more.

With the advent of local street delivery, today’s South Lake Tahoe ZIP codes are 96150 (street delivery), then 96151, 96155 and 96158 for P.O. boxes at the Al Tahoe main, Meyers and Tahoe Valley stations, respectively. Nevada South Shore is P.O. Box addresses only.

In the mid-1980s, USPS opened Neighborhood Delivery Centers (NDCs) on Alameda Avenue, Eloise Avenue, and Black Bart Avenue to reduce auto travel. These were P.O. box-only satellites, no clerks nor window services. Those NDCs were closed in the early 2000s after the start of street delivery.

– Bill Kingman

Recreation photo contest in S. Lake Tahoe

South Lake Tahoe Community Services Department is celebrating July as “Parks Make Life Better” month as recognized by the California Park & Recreation Society .

This measure recognizes the importance of access to local parks, trails, open space, and facilities for the health and development of all California residents. A research study sponsored by the CPRS shows that 98 percent of households visit a local park at least once a year, two in three households visit a park once a month, and 50 percent of households participate in an organized recreation program.

The Community Services Department is inviting people to participate in a “Parks Make Life Better” photo contest in July. Submissions are to include yourself, family or friends enjoying a recreation activity in South Lake Tahoe such as Bijou Park, Regan Beach, Lakeview Commons, STAR Camp, youth or adult sport program or your favorite recreation center class.

For more information, go online or call (530) 542.6056.

Workshop about ADA laws

South Lake Tahoe building official Dave Walker, Patterson building official Jim Swanson and local architect Brian Shinault will discuss the new ADA laws and how they apply to businesses.

All three are certified access specialists by the Division of the State Architect.

The meeting is July 11 at 7:30pm in the City Council chambers at 1901 Airport Road, South Lake Tahoe.

Library taking storytime outdoors in Genoa

The Douglas County Public Library is presenting a special family storytime on July 17 at 10:30am under the trees at Mormon Station in Genoa.

Youth Services Librarian Kathy E. will read stories about magical rocks. Afterward, children of all ages may paint a magic rock to take home.

Mormon Station is located on the corner of Main Street and Genoa Lane in Genoa.

For more info, call (775) 782.9841.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Truckee Town Council and Planning Commission are having an Economic development workshop July 17 from 6-8pm at the council chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road.

• The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons has given the Carson Tahoe Cancer Center in Carson City a three-year renewal of accreditation.

• The Douglas County Public Library in Zephyr Cove will be closed July 4 and will reopen July 5 at 9am.

• The Sierra Cup Series is making a stop at Kirkwood on July 14 for the Kirkwood Mountain Classic cross country and Super-D races. All proceeds from the events will be donated to TAMBA.

• There will be a Fourth of July celebration at the American Legion in South Lake Tahoe on July 4 from 10am-3pm. No cost to attend. There will be food, music and other vendors.

SLTFD: Don’t bring fireworks into Tahoe basin

The South Lake Tahoe Fire Department is reminding everyone not to use personal fireworks 4th of July weekend or ever.

Not only are fireworks illegal in the entire Lake Tahoe Basin, but numerous fires result from their use, not to mention the severe injuries they may cause to the users.

The South Shore area provides the locals and visitors a world-class fireworks display on the evening of July 4 at 9:45pm. This display is visible over the lake from the South Shore beaches on both the California and Nevada sides of the stateline.

The SLTFD wishes you a safe and sane 4th of July celebration.

– Sallie Ross-Filgo, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

Incline Lake Dam meetings scheduled

The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit has scheduled an additional project open house on July 10 from 5-7pm to discuss the proposed removal of the Incline Lake Dam.

The meeting will be at Homewood Suites, 5450 Kietzke Lane, Reno.

The Forest Service is seeking public input on a proposal to remove the Incline Lake dam and restore the surrounding area. The Forest Service purchased the 777-acre Incline Lake parcel in 2008. During the acquisition process, a site investigation and assessment determined that the Incline Lake dam and spillway do not meet federal, state or local standards for a high-hazard dam (designated as such due to downstream development).

The Forest Service will have the first project open house July 8 from 5-7pm at the Incline Village General Improvement District Board Room, 893 Southwood Blvd., Incline Village.

Phone scammers targeting El Dorado County residents

The El Dorado County Sheriff’s Office is investigating a new variation of phone scam that impersonates law enforcement.

In this recent case, the caller portrayed himself as an FBI agent who claimed he has discovered you won a prize that was never awarded to you. The scammer then asks for money to be sent to him. To try to convince you to send the money, the scammer will fake a phone call from local law enforcement.

In this case the scammer had a second scammer pretend to be Sheriff John D’Agostini. These scammers can be particularly convincing because they can make the number they called from appear on your caller ID to be any number including that of the FBI.

It is important to remember that law enforcement will never call anyone asking for money, ever. Before giving any financial or personal information you should be positive the people receiving the information are who they say they are.