Snoop Dogg, Ice Cube at MontBleu

Snoop Dogg and Ice Cube will be in the house at MontBleu Resort in Stateline on July 17, enabling new and old schoolers to get down.

Known for his ultra-smooth, laid back raps and melodic rhyming, Snoop delivers iconic “double speak” lingo – adding “izzle” to his music. His success has spanned the last two decades in the rap music industry with multiple platinum albums, including hits like “Gin and Juice,” “Drop It Like It’s Hot,” “Signs” and “Beautiful.”

Ice Cube will bust out hits like “It Was a Good Day” and “Check Your Self.” His solo career in music launched after leaving the rap group N.W.A (comprised of Dr. Dre, Eazy-E, MC Ren and DJ Yella) in 1989. He’s also been a successful actor, screenwriter and producer.

General admission tickets are $49.50 plus tax and available by calling MontBleu at 800.be.lucky and at www.ticketmaster.com.

Doors open at 8pm, and the show starts at 9pm.

Thunder Valley turns parking lot into concert venue

By Carla Meyer, Sacramento Bee

Thunder Valley Casino Resort has taken a parking lot and put up what might be paradise for fans of intimate concert venues.

To help celebrate its expansion, the Lincoln casino has temporarily converted a section of blacktop into a 4,800-capacity amphitheater offering chair and bleacher seating, and a designated area for food and crafts vendors.

Lionel Richie's nearly sold-out show tonight will mark the official opening of the casino's new hotel, pool and spa. Sacramento's Tesla plays Friday, Dwight Yoakam on Saturday and the band America, appropriately, on July 4.

Read the whole story

USFS begins outdoor interpretive programs on South Shore

Kicking-off the weekly summer night programs at the Lake of the Sky Amphitheater at Taylor Creek Visitor Center on the South Shore will be a night with Mark Twain. Come and learn about Mark Twain's crazy adventures through live interpretation by McAvoy Layne. Hear his stories and take a step back into some local history.

Mark Twain will be presented on July 1 and again Aug. 26 at 7pm.

Other night programs offered at the Lake of the Sky Amphitheater are:

* Wildfire Awareness: Angora Fire area: rebirth and restoration on July 8 at 8:30pm.

* Batopia! July 15 at 8:30pm and Aug. 12 at 8pm.

* Night Sky on July 17 at 8:30pm.

* Wild Things! July 29 at 7pm, and Aug. 19 at 7pm.

The Tahoe Heritage Foundation would gratefully accept a $2 donation per person in order to bring the public future programs like these.

Taylor Creek offers an assortment of visitor and kids programs daily. For more information and complete details of all the programs for this summer, pick up a Lake of the Sky Journal or contact Taylor Creek Visitor Center located on Highway 89, three miles north of South Lake Tahoe and 6 miles south of Emerald Bay, phone (530) 543.2674

Middle school summer music program in South Tahoe

Middle school band students who will be entering the 7th and 8th grades this are invited to join the summer Teen Band Ensemble.

The band will meet and practice on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-4:30pm at the Boys & Girls Club (1100 Lyons Ave., South Lake Tahoe). Participants must be able to bring their own instruments. The program is for students who already know how to play their instrument and want to enjoy playing with their friends and other musicians.

The program will be facilitated by high school students, Boys & Girls Club staff and community volunteers. High school band students are invited to participate as mentors and leaders as

well as get to play their instruments. Rose Campion will be the student conductor and coordinator, with the help of Gerry Wright, music volunteer.

Teen Band Ensemble members will be selecting the music they would like to practice and perform. The program will begin July 5 and culminate Aug. 25 with a performance for friends, family and community.

The program is being offered at no cost.

For more information or to sign up, contact Karen Houser at the Boys & Girls Club, (530) 542-0838.

Travelers returning to the road – including Tahoe – for July 4

By Mark Glover, Sacramento Bee

Does it mean the down economy is over? Not exactly. But Californians are planning to hit the road over the July Fourth weekend in numbers that well outpace last year's, and experts say the trend seems to reflect a sense of optimism about things to come.

AAA Northern California on Monday projected a nearly 20 percent hike in the number of California residents who will travel over the holiday weekend compared with last year. AAA said it expects more than 4.1 million Californians to travel 50 miles or more from their homes.



Beaches in Tahoe are expected to be crowded during the holiday weekend, unlike this past Sunday. Photo/Kathryn Reed

The association said its annual survey revealed pent-up demand for travel.

Read the whole story

St. Theresa to install new pastor

The Rev. Benedict De Leon has been appointed pastor of St. Theresa Catholic Church in South Lake Tahoe.

De Leon was ordained 30 years ago and has served the Diocese of Sacramento as pastor in different parishes.

With love of boating and fishing, Lake Tahoe is a natural fit for him.



Benedict De Leon

De Leon will be installed as the new pastor for St. Theresa on July 4 at the 10am Mass. A reception welcoming De Leon will be after each of the Masses this weekend. The vigil Mass on Saturday is at 5:30pm. Sunday Masses are at 8am, 10am and noon.

The Spanish Mass is normally Sunday at 7pm, however, because of the 4th of July holiday the Spanish Mass will be July 3 at 7pm. The reception from the Spanish community will be July 11 after the Mass.

Gardnerville boy to tour with national theater group

By Forrest Hartman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Cade Canon Ball was made for the stage.

“Since I was born,” the 9-year-old says. “I’ve always been a little ham.”

Ask him to break into song, and he will, perfectly enunciating each note as he turns the lobby of Reno’s Take 2 Performers Studio into a stage.

For a boy who calls Gardnerville home, Cade has an impressive Hollywood resume. He’s been in a national television commercial for McDonald’s, appeared on an episode of the television drama “Medium” and is about to embark on his biggest gig yet.

Read the whole story

Tahoe’s night sky to light up Fourth of July

“Lights on the Lake,” Lake Tahoe South Shore’s July 4th fireworks extravaganza, is one of the most popular Independence Day celebrations in the West with more than 100,000 onlookers. The event has received national media exposure.

Holiday weekend visitors can expect the fireworks show to explode into unusual and whimsical shapes such as jellyfish, stars, butterflies, and smiley faces around 9:45pm. This annual family tradition is choreographed to music and broadcast on local radio stations KRLT-FM 93.9 and KOWL-AM 1490. “Lights on the Lake” is sponsored by the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority.

The fireworks are launched from offshore barges and can be seen from all corners of town. South Shore offers convenient access to viewing areas via public transportation, paved bike trails, and nearby park and walk venues.

Numerous vantage points include:

· South Lake Tahoe’s two paddle-wheelers, the Tahoe Queen and

M.S. Dixie II; both offer dining/viewing packages

· Nevada Beach State Park has a soft, sandy shoreline equipped with barbecues and picnic tables

· Regan and El Dorado beaches offer front row seating that fills up fast

· Bijou Community Park is set back from the shoreline and boasts many amenities such as a skate park, disc golf course, dog park, golf course, and playground to keep the whole family entertained while holding your ideal viewing spot

· The Tallac Historic Site, off Emerald Bay Road, has an east-view perspective with nearby Baldwin Beach and its picnic tables

· For the more adventurous, hike to the top of Mount Tallac for a bird's eye view of the fireworks extravaganza, but don't forget your headlamp for the trek back down

· A Fourth of July favorite is Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course's 4th of July Celebration. This setting offers front-and-center viewing of Lights on the Lake from Edgewood's private beach and an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Cash Only Band to play at Boathouse Theatre

The Cash Only Band is coming to the South Shore's historic Boathouse Theatre on July 1 at 7:30pm.

Founded by front man guitarist Davin Kangas in 2002, the Cash Only Band started out as a Johnny Cash Tribute band and is a

musical interpretation, not an impersonation.

Other band members include South Lake Tahoe's Nate Alcorn on upright bass bringing a Western swing and slap style and Raybob Bowman on pedal steel. He has performed for more than 30 years with the likes of Naomi and Wynona Judd. Lowell Wilson is on the keyboard and synthesizer with his honky-tonk piano style and rock organ type sounds, along with Tom Parodie on drums with an innovative style.

Tickets are $15 for adults (age 18 to 54); $12 for ages 13-17 and 55+; 12 and under are $5. Military and student discounts are offered.

The annual Valhalla Arts, Music and Theatre festival is located on the shores of Lake Tahoe at the historic Tallac Site.

For the full schedule, call (530) 541.4975 or visit www.valhallatahoe.com.

Pruning keeps lilacs blooming each year

By Cortney Moore

After a long, cool spring a sure sign that warmer weather is on its way has appeared. The lilacs are blooming.

Plump buds pop open in clusters of purple blossoms and unleash a fragrance that is heavenly. Lilacs are a classic landscape shrub.

As settlers made their way west, they often planted lilacs to

symbolize hope when the showy spectacle of flowers emerged in the spring.



Lilacs do well in the Tahoe basin. Photo/Cortney Moore

Lilacs still thrive on some of these abandoned homesteads without any care, making them some of the oldest and one of the toughest bushes in the flora world.

Lilacs have numerous applications from a natural looking bush, to a trimmed hedge or even a manicured, sheared shrub. There is room for a lilac or two in every yard.

Full sun is necessary for healthy plants and optimal bloom. Shaded areas will lead to reduced bloom, weak growth and increase the chance of powdery mildew.

Lilacs are tolerant of most soil, but will not tolerate standing water. Moist, well-drained soil is preferred. Lilacs need adequate water while they are establishing their root system, and require more water when buds are forming during the summer months.

Fertilizer is not a necessity with lilacs and heavy application of nitrogen may reduce bloom. Adding organic matter to your soil or fertilizing with a product low in nitrogen and higher in phosphorous is better for lilacs.

Lilacs bloom on old wood which means they will set buds on the current season’s growth and these buds will bloom next season. Prune immediately after the current season’s flowers are spent so new buds form and are not removed by late pruning.

If your lilac is not blooming you may want to pay attention to when you are pruning.

Once the lilac bush is well established, pruning old growth may be necessary to rejuvenate the shrub and promote optimal bloom. This type of pruning is different from pruning the spent flowers. Look at the shrub and determine which canes are the oldest, remove one-third of the oldest canes cutting out at the base of the plant. New growth will fill in and keep the plant fresh and healthy.

Lilacs also add beauty to your home as cut flowers. Clip a few stems and place in a vase of water to fill your home with a sweet summery perfume.

After blooms fade, lilacs add a soft quality to the landscape with their heart shaped matte green leaves. Lilacs are considered a medium to large landscape shrub. Plant them where they have room to grow and enjoy watching them mature into bushes loaded with blooms year after year.

The hardy nature and versatility of lilacs makes them a great choice for planting in the Tahoe Basin. Planting lilacs this season will give you something to look forward to after a cold, snowy winter or a long, cool spring that decides to hang around until summer shows up.

Cortney Moore is nursery manager for Tahoe Outdoor Living in South Lake Tahoe.