Giants fan beaten after Dodger baseball opener

By Richard Winton, Los Angeles Times

As police searched for a group of Dodgers fans who allegedly beat a Giants fan, officials said about 25 people were arrested for various infractions during Thursday's opening day festivities at Dodger Stadium.

Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. Sanford Rosenberg said most of the 25 arrests were related to intoxication due to the consumption of too much alcohol. The number of overall arrests was markedly down from last year's opening day, when 132 arrests were made.

Because Dodgers opening day is known for its heavy drinking, rowdy crowds, the LAPD was out in full force at Thursday's game to try to avoid a repeat of unruly behavior of past years.

The most serious incident occurred after the game when a Giants fan was beaten.

"The man suffered a serious head injury during the assault after the game," said LAPD Sgt. Sanford Rosenberg, watch commander at the Northeast Station.

Rosenberg said the victim was one of three Giants fans attacked in the parking lot around the end of the game by two unidentified men wearing Dodgers clothing.

The unprovoked attack occurred about 8:30 p.m. in Parking Lot 2 when two men in Dodgers clothing approached three victims in Giants apparel, police said.

The two men then attacked the trio, kicking and punching them and shouting expletives about the Giants as they delivered the

blows, Rosenberg said. The attack left one victim hospitalized in critical but stable condition, Rosenberg said.

The LAPD arrested at least two people for public intoxication in the parking lot compared with more than 130 on opening day last year.

Detectives ask anyone with information on the attack to call the LAPD's Northeast Station at (213) 485-2563.

Public intoxication has been an issue at Dodger home openers in the past, leading to police crackdowns. It's unclear if drinking was a factor in this case. The Dodgers beat the Giants 2-1.

Truckee's Rahlves to join hall of fame

By Tom Kelly, USSA

Sun Valley, Idaho – In a competitive career spanning two decades, Truckee's Daron Rahlves has his share of medals and trophies. A super G World Championship in 2001. Hahnenkamm champion in 2004. Two medals at 2005 Worlds. 12 World Cup victories. The 2008 X Games skicross gold. Saturday, Rahlves will be honored with induction into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Sun Valley.

Pointing his Atomic skis downhill at 85 mph was just one phase of Rahlves' career. Ski racer? Yes. But, first and foremost, a skier.□□ "I don't want people to look back on my history and say 'man that guy was a good ski racer,' said Rahlves. "I want people to know me as a skier who loves skiing. Staying active

and influential in the ski world is really important to me.”

It’s fitting that among the group of six Hall of Fame inductees are two more of skiing’s greatest names – Glen Plake and the late Shane McConkey. Plake is a former freestyle skier turned skiing ambassador whose trademark Mohawk hairdo is known to every skier young and old. McConkey was one of the sport’s most daring skiers, literally defining a generation of extreme skiers before his tragic death in a 2008 skiing accident.

“Everyone grew up watching Glen Plake,” said Rahlves. “For the last 20 years, he’s been the most iconic guy in the ski world. He’s done a lot for our sport in terms of recognition. It helps to have a two-foot Mohawk. But it’s also about his smile and that signature cackle.”

Rahlves and Plake caught up at a ski event earlier this winter and joked about their induction. “He said he didn’t think he was going to accept it because he’s not done skiing,” laughed Rahlves. “I told him you don’t have to hang it up to be in the Hall. Besides Plake’s never going to hang it up and neither will I.”

Plake, McConkey and Rahlves all grew up skiing Tahoe. Each drew inspiration from the others.

“Shane, he’s done some amazing things,” said Rahlves. “Before my first World Cup win, I was skiing with Shane in Tahoe the day before I left for Norway. He opened my eyes to a whole new way of being creative on the mountain. I was always into going fast and doing bigger lines. But he was just really technical and always having fun. I have to attribute some of the feeling I have for that win in Norway to Shane. After ripping with him, I just took that fun into ski racing.”

That March, 2000 weekend in Norway, Rahlves swept to a pair of wins on the same course that brought Tommy Moe Olympic gold fame six years earlier in Kvitfjell.

“Daron had a passion for skiing that was unlike any other World Cup racer,” said former U.S. Ski Team Coach Phil McNichol, who was with Rahlves during the pinnacle of his racing career. “A lot comes from his lineage of being a Tahoe skier growing up with Glen and Shane. He just had this intense passion whether skiing the Mousefalle or skipping a rest day to hit some powder.”

McNichols shared a story of the U.S. Championship downhill at Squaw Valley being canceled due to new snow. “Daron was out there inspecting in downhill skis with racing bindings when it was called. He didn’t waste a minute getting to the powder – didn’t even take time to change skis. He caught massive air off this jump, the skis didn’t release and he threw out his hip.”

Today, from his home base in Truckee, CA where he lives with wife Michelle and their twin boys, Rahlves globetrots to powder fields and innovative ski events. It’s a big change from the five-month grind of the World Cup circuit where for a decade he was best in the world.

In 2001 at St. Anton, Austria, Rahlves literally silenced the crowd of 25,000+ Austrians with his unprecedented win in the World Championship super G. It was an event that Austria totally owned. Until that day.□□ Three years later, after he had won over many Austrian fans, he did the unthinkable, winning the fabled Hahnenkamm. From 2000 to 2006, Rahlves won a dozen World Cups. He took three wins in Kvitfjell plus wins on the classic courses in Kitzbuehel, Bormio and Wengen. But winning at home in Beaver Creek on the Birds of Prey – well, that was very special.

“Every win was cool, but the highlights are definitely the first World Championship, Kitzbuehel, Wengen and especially Beaver Creek,” he reminisced. “Birds of Prey is just a big deal for me. I skied so many years there and then it was time to just start winning on home turf. To get two wins there and

also be on the podium a number of times is such a good feeling."

Not only did Rahlves dominate on the Birds of Prey, he did so together with teammate Bode Miller. Over four Decembers from 2003-2006, Rahlves or Miller won every year, often with the other right behind in second place. It was the most dominating period in U.S. men's downhill history.

"That was a very special time in history," said McNichol. "When we walked into Kitz or Beaver Creek, we did it with our heads held high. We were proud!"

"There's a special feeling that goes along with winning a big event in Europe," said Rahlves. "Whether it's a World Championship or Kitz or the Lauberhorn, they all carry a magic that can't be described.

"But I'm also really proud of what I've been able to do after my ski racing career – winning the X Games for skicross, going to the Olympics in a completely different sport."

Rahlves is a part of one of the most prestigious classes in Hall of Fame history. In addition to Plake and McConkey, he is joined by the legendary ski racer Bobby Cochran, Paralympic medalist Muffy Davis and Sun Valley and Snowbasin resort owner Earl Holding. The six will be honored Saturday evening at the Sun Valley Inn.

The U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame is located in Ishpeming, MI – the birthplace of organized skiing in America in 1905. The Hall has recognized nearly 400 athletes and sport builders since 1956. The annual induction rotates around to America's greatest resorts, including Sun Valley which is celebrating its 75th anniversary.

"This is definitely a big honor and something I'm proud of," said Rahlves. "But to be among this list of names makes it even more special."

Green Lodging Conference brings change to hotel business

By Linda Fine Conaboy

Hilton Hotels is changing the way it does business because of a green lodging conference in South Lake Tahoe.

Will something that significant happen at this summer's conference? Only time can answer that question. But those putting the Aug. 22-25 seminar together are aiming for big things.

"It'll be a larger conference coming off the momentum of last year," Bill Cottrill, director of sales and marketing at Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe said. His property, which is part of the Hilton family, is hosting the second annual West Coast Green Lodging Conference like it did last year.



Hilton Hotels is changing how it lights its properties. Photos/Provide

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The meeting is aimed at hotel general managers, chief engineers, innkeepers and owners.

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm. Last year many corporate folks learned a lot; this year they want their entire team here,” Cottrill said.

He pointed out that the cost, about $300, is not much for a conference, especially for one where attendees can learn such things as how to begin and implement a green program, why going green is valuable and even how the community benefits.

“They definitely got their money’s worth last year,” said David Hansen, engineer at the South Lake Tahoe Embassy Suites. “If they implemented just one or two things, the pay back could be in just a couple of weeks. Just simple things like changing light bulbs. If they took just that one idea back, it was more than worth the price of admission.”

Hansen says attendees will also learn about waste reduction and recycling, food waste composting and compostable products, all of which will be on the agenda in August.

Hansen said he received feedback from Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo that has realized savings in its energy costs as well as the Hilton Chicago where all of the food waste is now being composted. The Hilton website reveals the chain is the first in the world to earn LEED and Green Seal environmental certifications.

“My hope this year is that someone who was at the last conference can speak about how they’ve instituted sustainability at their property,” Hansen said.



David Hansen

So dedicated has Hilton become to implementing sustainability within their brand, they developed, tested and last year officially unveiled LightStay, a proprietary system developed to calculate and analyze the environmental impact of Hilton Worldwide's 1,300 properties using the system. Results showed enough energy was saved to power 5,700 homes for a year, while enough water was conserved to fill more than 650 Olympic-size swimming pools. In addition, these properties reduced carbon output equivalent to taking close to 35,000 cars off the road, all of which resulted in an estimated savings of more than $29 million in utility costs in one year.

Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe is participating in LightStay.

"We are able to benchmark ourselves against other Hilton Properties," Cottrill says, adding that Lake Tahoe is No. 1 within the Embassy brand and No. 5 in electrical efficiency for the entire Hilton organization.

Always conscious of additional ways to add to their property's sustainability program, Cottrill and Hansen ticked off a number of programs implemented there. Here are a few:

• A computer system designed for the automated control and monitoring of the heating, ventilation and lighting needs of the buildings.

• All 400 suites have programmable occupancy sensing thermostats.

• The hotel is testing "Green Switch" in a few suites to

pinpoint the return on investment on this device designed to save energy consumption by turning off the power to certain outlets (like the TV) and lighting when guests leave for the day.

• Replacement of 165, 40-watt incandescent exit lights with one watt LED light.

• Replacement of 80 garage lighting fixtures with LED lighting.

• Removal of over 300 unnecessary lights.

• The use of only compostable, plant based plates, cups, spoons, etc. in food take- out facilities.

• Ozone laundry systems.

• Collecting and re-selling recyclables such as cans and bottles.

• Promoting zero waste events.

In addition, Embassy Suites has formed collaborative relationships with South Tahoe Refuse and Full Circle Compost, a company producing organic compost and soil nutrition needs in Minden.

“It probably will never end,” Cottrill says. “Our green efforts have brought us some business we wouldn’t have had. Sustainability is now at the forefront of many meeting planner’s minds,” he says. “It’s not just money you can save from the program; it’s top line revenue (money to be made), whereas bottom line savings is the profit from changing your efficiencies—very simple things.”

“You never stop,” Hansen said in regards to being green enough.. “People ask me all the time, ‘when will you be finished going green?’ The answer is never. It’s a lifestyle change. I come up with new ideas all the time. Employees come

up with new ideas—it’s endless.”

For details about this year’s green conference, go online.

Bomb squad called out to Topaz Ranch

The Tahoe Douglas Bomb Squad was called out to a Topaz Ranch Estates residence Thursday evening to handle a World War II-era hand grenade, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department reported. The address is unknown.

Two Douglas residents found the device while going through another resident’s belongings at about 6:30pm. The residents took the device to the sheriff’s station in Minden where officers created a perimeter around the device left in the vehicle. The bomb squad moved the explosive to a bomb-proof container.

It’s unclear at this point whether the device was detonated.

Residents are advised not to handle explosives. Instead, law enforcement suggests to call 911.

Eldorado roads remain closed

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

The seasonal closure of dirt roads in the Eldorado National

Forest has been extended to May 1 due to wet weather and muddy road conditions.

Forest supervisor Ramiro Villalvazo said soil conditions and weather forecasts will be re-evaluated every two weeks to determine whether the routes are dry enough to reopen.

For the past two years, the seasonal closure has been extended beyond the minimum closure months of January through March, according to a Forest Service news release. Last year, the dirt roads reopened in May.

Visitors to the forest are advised to contact the nearest ranger station or to visit the Eldorado National Forest website, www.fs.fed.us/r5/eldorado, for the latest information on the seasonal dirt road closure. The website also describes the sampling and evaluation methods used to determine when the closure might be lifted.

Read the whole story

Red Hawk operator files for leniency on notes

By Dale Kasler and Rick Daysog, Sacramento Bee

The operator of Red Hawk Casino has taken a huge write down on loans it made to the tribe that owns the struggling casino in Shingle Springs.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission today, Minneapolis-based Lakes Entertainment Inc. said it took a $21 million “impairment charge” on notes issued to the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians.

“Lakes does not currently estimate that these amounts will be repaid within the contract terms due to the continued harsh economic climate in Northern California and increased competition from a neighboring casino expansion,” the company said.

Ken Adams, a Reno gaming consultant, said Red Hawk has been plagued from the start by its remote location off Highway 50 between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe. That’s put the casino at a major disadvantage against Thunder Valley Casino in Lincoln, which also benefited from a huge expansion last summer.

“They don’t have the best location,” Adams said of the Miwoks. “Thunder Valley has the location.”

The weak economy and high gas and food prices have nibbled away at the amount of income available for gaming, he added. “When (customers’) gas costs a third more than it used to and their food costs a third more than it used to, they have less to spend,” he said.

The write down prompted Lakes to report a $28.1 million loss for the fourth quarter 2010. The $1.07 per share loss compares with a net profit of $2.4 million in the year-earlier period.

Shares of Lakes fell 27 cents, or 8.6 percent, this morning to $2.87 on the Nasdaq market.

With over 2,100 slot machines and 65 table games, the Red Hawk Casino opened in December 2008, which was one of worst months of the economic downturn.

Brown: California drought declared over

By Matt Weiser, Sacramento Bee

California’s drought is over. But don’t get carried away.

That was the basic message in a proclamation issued today by Gov. Jerry Brown, which rescinds a statewide drought emergency declaration adopted in February 2009 by his predecessor.

The proclamation was timed with the latest statewide snow survey by the state Department of Water Resources, which found California’s snowpack at 165 percent of average for the season.

The snowpack provides one-third of all the water consumed in California by people, businesses and farms. Most of the rest comes from groundwater.

Read the whole story

South Lake Tahoe ice rink may be run by outside entity

By Kathryn Reed

Quashing subsidies is a goal of South Lake Tahoe city staff and elected officials. The first chance to do so will be next week when the City Council is expected to approve the request for proposal to seek bids to operate the city ice rink.

With the rink requiring close to $100,000 from the general

fund in some years to break even, the goal is the next operator would create enough revenue so taxpayer money is never used and in an ideal scenario the rink would be adding to the city's bottom line.



Improving retail sales at the South Tahoe ice rink is a goal. Photo/LTN file

"By subjecting the enterprise to competition we find out the true cost to operate it," City Manager Tony O'Rourke said. "At a minimum we don't want to subsidize it."

City employees will have an opportunity to bid as well. Bob Pelkola is now running the ice rink.

With only two full-time employees at the rink, not many employees would be displaced if an outside entity were the winning bidder. It's possible those employees would be reassigned. It's also likely an outsider would bring in staff.

O'Rourke said the city contingent will not be privy to any special information and would not receive automatic preference.

City staff has looked at other ice rinks and know it's possible to break even, if not turn a profit.

"It was making $800,000 at one time and now it's at $500,000.

Is it an issue of the economy or that it’s not open as many hours as it could be?” Nancy Kerry, communications manager for the city, said.

She said most ice rinks are open more hours than the one in South Lake Tahoe, which in turn means more programs and more money being generated. Most also do a better job of advertising and marketing themselves.

The plan is for the winning bidder to pay the city a nominal fee to essentially rent the rink. The larger source of income for the city would be a share of the revenues.

“That is negotiable. We are putting the burden on the bidder how much of the pie they are willing to share with us and that will be one of the criteria for awarding the bid,” O’Rourke said.

The council meets April 5 at 9am at Lake Tahoe Airport. Assuming the RFP is approved, the application deadline would be May 16, with the council likely to award the bid June 7.

This would be the first time South Lake Tahoe has gone after others to run city-owned entities. O’Rourke does not intend to stop at the ice rink. He wants the airport, campground and golf course to go through the same sort of RFP process.

South Lake Tahoe officials provided the following fiscal information about the ice rink:

	FY 2005/06	**FY 2006/07**	**FY 2007/08**	**FY 2008/09**	**FY2009/10**
Revenue (Actual)	$ 752,478	$ 812,635	$ 694,575	$ 605,696	$ 509,080
Expenses (Actual)	$ 787,643	$ 789,671	$ 791,847	$ 702,492	$ 595,457

Annual GF Subsidy	$ 35,165	$ (22,965)	$ 97,272	$ 96,796	$ 86,377

Demand for building down

By Linda Fine Conaboy

When times are tough in a community, there seem to be multiple indicators signifying just how bad things really are. You see closed storefronts, not much exterior maintenance being done to spruce up buildings, unfinished building projects or simply not many new building starts, and fairly high unemployment.

In the Lake Tahoe region, another indicator is the number of unused building permits (allocations) that have been carried forward, unused from year-to-year.

Normally, by this time, the 2011 permits would have been distributed by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. But this year, the designated date is sometime in April. Some in the basin question why and even worry the TRPA will not be issuing allocations this year.



While construction has been robust at

South Tahoe High for a couple years, small projects in the basin are near non-existent. Photo/LTN file

Not so, said Jeff Cowen, TRPA community liaison.

Although the agency has also found itself mired in various financial issues mandating reorganization with a plan to eliminate eight positions and reclassify 12 others, the reason for late allocations isn't an internal staffing issue, he said.

In addition, according to Cowen, the jurisdictions making up the Lake Tahoe Basin are not pounding down the door for allocations. There's a direct relationship between a lack of requests for allocations and the region's economic activities, he said.

Although the process of granting building permits or allocations is an intricate one, with many nuances sometimes making it difficult for the lay person to understand, the official definition of an allocation, provided by Cowen is: an apportionment of additional development opportunity for residential, commercial, tourist accommodation and certain recreational projects.

Although this may sound convoluted, it all boils down to who can build where.

"We were not in a hurry to release the allocations this year even though we are closing out the allocations pool from the 1987 Regional Plan. We are a couple of months behind," Cowen admitted, explaining usually the process is completed in

January. However, he said, no new allocations will be allotted until the Regional Plan is updated – an ongoing work in process for a number of years, but according to Cowen, it's in the final stages of development.

The current Regional Plan, in place since 1987, was set to sunset in 2007.

"Things are contentious in the basin," he said. "That's why we're still working on the plan. We've actually been working on it since 2004."

A bit of history

He said because of runaway growth, TRPA put the brakes on rampant building in 1969.

"Come the 1980s, all the harmful growth was stopped, but [we] failed to put in place practices that would make things good – all the broken stuff was still there. The majority of Tahoe's development was created without environmental guidelines. The lake's clarity was still declining."

In 1997, then-President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore came to Lake Tahoe to establish the Environmental Improvement Program, which is a federal, local, state and private partnership.

And in 2007 the EIP was updated, followed just recently by the potential reauthorization of the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, which hit the floor of Congress on March 2. This act continues the federal commitment at Lake Tahoe by authorizing $415 million over eight years to improve water clarity, reduce the threat of fire and restore the environment. Cowen said the act has broad support and has a good chance of being approved.

By way of explanation, the area benefitting from the allocation process is located between the Carson Range on the east and the Sierra Nevada on the west, straddling the

California-Nevada state line. It consists of a large geographical area including South Lake Tahoe, as well as portions of Douglas, El Dorado, Placer, Carson and Washoe counties. About two-thirds of the region is in California, with the remaining one-third in Nevada.

There are about 50,000 year-round residents within the region, a number that is in decline. With 44,000 developed parcels, about 50 to 65 percent of homes are occupied by seasonal residents. About 13 percent of the region is developed.

Who gets what

While all of the machinations at TRPA may not be apparent to the builder or homeowner who's anxious to begin a building project, they are important to the overall process.

Although Cowen says he understands the urgency of getting shovels in the ground and the short digging season in the Tahoe basin (May 1-Oct. 15), the simple fact of the matter is that none of the jurisdictions is hammering on the TRPA's door for allocations. Building is definitely slow, he reiterated.

He said TRPA understands it has a reputation of being dense and obtuse stemming from year's back. Be he also said the agency has changed a lot.

"We're on a strict path to improve our business processes," Cowen said.

At the time this article was written, Cowen said there will be allocations available, but he didn't know how many. "We're working on that now."

In 2009 TRPA issued allocations to local jurisdictions without the normal expiration date at the end of the year.

"So, the 2009 allocations that were distributed have lasted through two building seasons and all but one jurisdiction (Douglas County) still has allocations remaining from that

pool as we head into a third year. In the past, that kind of retention would have been unheard of."

Here's a distribution recap for 2009-10:

• South Lake Tahoe: 32 distributed with six remaining – these are all on hold for multi-family projects; no single-family available right now

• Douglas County: 15 distributed; none remaining

• El Dorado County: 69 distributed; more than 30 remaining

• Placer County: 50 distributed; 42 remaining

• Washoe County: 40 distributed; 32 remaining.

As far as the total number of allocations remaining for years to come, Cowen said TRPA planners are still working on that figure and will know more in April.

What others think

Jill Bricker, a local Realtor and the governmental relations chair for the South Tahoe Association of Realtors, knows the local market well and has some words of advice.

"If you're planning to apply for a building allocation now, be prepared to have patience. The staffs at [TRPA], the city and the county have been drastically cut because of consolidation, etc."

Anyone who can build right now should do so, she said – it creates jobs.

Bricker said STAR and the Sierra Board of Realtors recently completed a joint study, the results of which will be passed on to TRPA and the California Tahoe Conservancy so these agencies can better understand what realtors deal with and how it affects the timing of various projects.

“Although response was limited, the majority of the membership feels allocations are not such a hot commodity anymore,” Bricker said.

“TRPA is one of the toughest planning agencies in the nation and sets the standard for environmental issues and protections when it comes to development. What we are concerned with are commercial allocations and tourist accommodation units, which are now being redefined.”

The TRPA website defines TAUs as a saleable commodity within the Tahoe basin. They are available for purchase from the California Tahoe Conservancy, private parties or can be transferred from existing projects.

Roger Trout is the El Dorado County director of development services and in his position deals with building allocations.

“Quite a few people let their allocations expire and they go back into the pool,” he said. “In the past, we’d get 70, 80, 100 allocations each year and they would all be consumed and we had a waiting list. Now, probably because of the state of the global housing market, the need for allocations has declined.”

Trout said he is hopeful TRPA will issue new allocations and re-supply El Dorado County.

“Back in the 1980s and early 1990s we always had more requests than we had allocations,” Trout said.

Mimi Moss, community development director for Douglas County, concurred with Trout when it comes to the number of requests for allocations, although Douglas County has used all of its for the current time period.

“Previously, Douglas County issued 12-13 allocations per year and we had a waiting list. If someone is not issued an allocation, the list rolls to the next year, which is why we

have a large waiting list," Moss said.

If it's any consolation to the citizens of Tahoe, the area is not alone in its current building malaise – the entire United States housing market is in the deep doldrums.

According to an article on cnnmoney.com, the housing market can't catch a break. The article reports that the number of permits issued in February for future housing construction fell to a new all-time low, according to a government report issued recently.

Building permits are down 8.2 percent, nationally, from January, the U.S. Department of Commerce Department said. That was the lowest level seen since the government started tracking the figures in 1959.

But spring is here, soon the snow will melt, the allocations will be issued and life may make a stab at normal. Maybe when the building season opens May 1 the sounds of construction will reverberate throughout the basin.

Upscale Placer County has lost much of its luster

By Phillip Reese and Ed Fletcher, Sacramento Bee

As the region struggles to regain its economic footing, even tony Placer County has lost much of its luster.

A suburban county northeast of Sacramento, Placer County attracted tens of thousands of mostly affluent new residents during the past decade, and it remains wealthy today. Its poverty rate is still lower than that of every other county in

California; its residents earn more income than the statewide average; its jobless rate trumps that of most other places.

But each of those vital economic indicators has veered sharply in the wrong direction during the last several years – more quickly than the rest of the state and much more quickly than other affluent counties:

• During 2005, Placer County had the third-lowest unemployment rate in the state. Today, it ranks 17th, according to the Employment Development Department.

• Cumulative personal income in the county dropped by $1.6 billion, or 14 percent, from 2007 to 2009, according to the Franchise Tax Board.

• The poverty rate in Placer County increased by 1.6 percentage points, to 7.2 percent, from 2005 to 2009, almost double the percentage-point increase statewide, census data show.

Read the whole story