Real estate investors not living where they buy

By Michelle Robertson, San Francisco Chronicle

At 24 years old, Ben Hunter is a homeowner, but a sizable portion of his paycheck goes to rent for a room in an 11-person house in San Francisco. That’s because the home he owns is located about 3,000 miles east, in Atlantic City, N.J.

About 35 percent of homes in the county of San Francisco are occupied by their owners, according to census data, compared to 54 percent nationally.

Brooke Hernandez, a Realtor in Lake Tahoe and former president of the South Tahoe Association of Realtors, says about 75 percent of her clientele lives in the Bay Area. She says she’s recently worked with 10 buyers with permanent residences in the Bay Area who can’t afford to purchase homes there.

“It makes sense to me,” she said. “There’s value in investing in real estate, even when you can’t afford what’s in your neighborhood.”

Read the whole story

Power out back on throughout South Shore

Updated 10:35am:

There was yet another power outage on the South Shore.

There we 3,704 Liberty Utilities customers with no electricity on Friday morning.

A locked out circuit at the Meyers substation is the problem. Crews don’t know what caused the problem Sept. 8.

There was out for a couple hours.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Billions of dead trees force fire crews to shift tactics

By Associated Press

Vast stands of dead timber in the Western U.S. have forced firefighters to shift tactics, trying to stay out of the shadow of lifeless, unstable trees that could come crashing down with deadly force.

About 6.3 billion dead trees are still standing in 11 Western states, up from 5.8 billion five years ago, according to U.S. Forest Service statistics compiled for the *Associated Press.*

Since 2010, a massive infestation of beetles has been the leading cause of tree mortality in the West and now accounts for about 20 percent of the standing dead trees, the Forest Service says. The rest were killed by drought, disease, fire or other causes.

Read the whole story

Truckee commercial burglary suspect sought



Richard Lenning

Truckee police officers are looking for a man they believe stole more than $100,000 worth of property from local business owners.

Richard Anthony Lenning, 37, is suspected of stealing numerous vehicles and then using them to ram the front door for the purpose of committing commercial burglary.

A felony no-bail warrant has been issued.

Lenning is 6-feet-tall, about 150 pounds, blond hair, and blue eyes.

He has ties to the Placerville and Pollock Pines areas, as well as Sparks and Silver Springs in Nevada.

Call 530.550.2320 or the local law enforcement agency if he is seen. Any information should be given to Detective Lisa Madden at 530.550.2330 or Sgt. Danny Renfrow at 530.550.2339.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

747 SuperTanker fights fire in U.S. for first time

By CBS/AP

Global SuperTanker Service's Boeing 747-400 marked its first use in the United States after it was activated to fight a California wildfire.

The company says CalFire exercised a call-when-needed contract Wednesday to fight a fire in Butte County about 10 miles east of Lake Oroville.

At the time, the SuperTanker was at McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento. The aircraft is based in Colorado Springs, Colo..

The company says it made two individual drops of 8,500 gallons of fire retardant that evening.

Read the whole story

Scientists: 'Fingerprints of climate change'

By Dale Kasler and Ryan Sabalow

Wildfires from the Oregon border to Los Angeles. Temperatures hitting 100 degrees in San Francisco, and higher in

Sacramento, capping off the hottest summer in California history.

Not to mention two of the most ferocious hurricanes ever recorded.

It has to be climate change, right?

The answer is a little more complicated than you might think.

Read the whole story

Emerald Bay work to cause traffic delays

Construction has started on repair work for a section of Highway 89 in the Emerald Bay area.

The work involves replacing a retaining wall and the extension of an existing barrier slab and rail.

The staging area will be at the Eagle Falls parking area alongside southbound Highway 89. Most, if not all, of the parking spots will be blocked by equipment

Work will take place from 6am-6pm Monday through Friday under reversing one-way traffic control. Motorists should expect delays of up to 20 minutes.

The project should be completed by mid-November.

Transit agency working on short-term upgrades

By Kathryn Reed

Those who run the South Shore bus system and those who use it know it's a bumpy ride, at least figuratively.

No longer using the never understood BlueGo name, the Tahoe Transportation District is just calling the system by the government body's name. New buses have the TTD logo and color scheme. (Money isn't being spent to repaint the old buses.) Signs at the stops have a bus symbol for the first time. No longer do people have to guess what a BlueGo is.

Three additional hybrid buses will be operational later this month; two electric buses are coming in 2018.

Even though the system appears to be managed more professionally, operationally it is still far from ideal. Frequency – or lack of – is a constant complaint. Routes are another contentious topic.

TTD is addressing some of those concerns in the short range transit plan, the first such document it has created for the South Shore bus line. This bus service also stretches into Carson City because of funding from Nevada; it's a way to help commuters.

The document will be the subject of a discussion at the Sept. 8 TTD board of directors meeting. The five main objectives in it are: safety, workforce development, fleet expansion and replacement, facility capacity and modernization, and future service expansion. Many of these are interrelated, though not necessarily in an obvious way.



Tahoe Transportation District is working on little things – like logical signage. Photo/LTN

The district hosted a public meeting last week, which was not well attended, that was intended to provide information about the plan. The document outlines goals for the next five years.

Funding is the main constraint when it comes to expanding routes and service. Expanding to Meyers and creating a hub at Lake Tahoe Community College are the first likely expansions. Seasonal routes are being worked on to get riders from the casino area to Emerald Bay.

"Without funding to support it, it does the community no good," Tara Frank with TTD told *Lake Tahoe News* of why changes will not be immediate. The same goes for increasing frequency to every 15 or 30 minutes. Those ideas are not currently sustainable.

The district has a number of funding sources, from the federal and two state governments, to grants and private contributions. Vail Resorts is a significant contributor, but no longer do the casinos contribute a dime.

Safety will always be at the top of the list as a priority – for workers and riders. Complaints were received last winter

that buses weren’t rolling on time. Nothing was. They don’t have magic powers to get through unplowed streets and can only move with the flow of traffic.

Workforce development really means the district is having staffing issues. It’s not alone. TART, the North Shore bus line, had to eliminate some of its winter routes because of a driver shortage.

“We have overtime because we can’t find drivers,” Frank said. “It’s compounded because they can’t find housing. It’s hard to provide service with a thin crew.”

This, then, becomes a safety issue as well.

As the fleet expands – a necessity if routes are added and times shortened – a larger yard will be needed to accommodate the buses. The property leased in South Lake Tahoe is at capacity. The goal would be to build headquarters someplace else, then potentially have workforce housing at the garage.

No land has been identified to service the district’s needs. Officials had looked at the old Kingsbury Middle School site, but safety at the intersection at Highway 50 was a main reason that idea got nixed.

Money for such an endeavor is also elusive.

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Notes:

· The TTD board meeting is Sept. 8, 9:30am at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach.

· The draft plan is available **online**.

· The last day to comment is Sept. 9.

Travel industry a potent job creator in U.S.

By Tanya Mohn, Forbes

High-tech, health and engineering are among the fields people typically think about when it comes to robust workforce opportunities, but travel is one of the most potent job creators of any American industry. In this country, workers who began their careers in travel and tourism achieved higher peak salary than most other industries.

Those are the results of a new study that analyzed data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to highlight the significant economic power of the travel industry in America, the quality of the industry's jobs, and the large number that are created by small businesses.

"Travel: America's Unsung Hero of Job Creation" was released by the U.S. Travel Association, a trade group, to correspond with the Labor Day holiday, a peak travel period, to underscore how travel fuels economic recovery, creates promising career paths and spurs small business growth.

Read the whole story

Caesars speaks out on federal

immigration policy

By Todd Prince, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Two casino operators have called on members of Congress to move ahead with immigration reform as some employees may lose their right to stay in the United States.

The Trump administration announced Tuesday that it was winding down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, or DACA, which provided temporary resident status for immigrants brought to the United States illegally as children. The law affects 13,000 in Nevada, many of whom work in some of the state's many leading casinos.

"Caesars Entertainment has DACA employees, and as is the case for all of our immigrant employees, we support their efforts to become U.S. citizens,'' said Richard Broome, executive vice president of public affairs and communications. "The company also continues to support comprehensive immigration reform.''

Read the whole story