Intersection dedicated for fallen Placer County detective

By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

The public, fellow deputies and family turned out over the weekend when a Loomis intersection was dedicated in memory of Placer County sheriff’s detective Michael Davis Jr., who was killed in the line of duty.

The dedication of the intersection of Horseshoe Bar Road and Interstate 80 in honor of Davis took place Saturday at the sheriff’s South Placer Loomis Substation, 6140 Horseshoe Bar Road.

The intersection was selected because it is near where many people who knew Davis travel. Signs on Interstate 80 will note that the intersection is named in his honor.

Read the whole story

Debate over use of jumbo bomber as wildfires rage



Planes like the Super Scooper are the U.S. Forest Service's choice for fire suppression. Photo/LTN file

By Keith Ridler, AP

A giant aircraft that can fly high above oceans on intercontinental flights instead jets in low and slow over a flaming forest, trailing a long plume that settles on the ground and creates a wildfire-stopping barrier.

The operators of the Boeing 747 converted from a passenger jet into a firefighting air tanker say it has proven itself battling forest fires in countries outside the U.S. The modifications allow it to drop more than 19,000 gallons of a flame-squelching combination of ammonium phosphate and sulfate mixed with water that comes billowing out in a red-colored line.

"We just happen to be the biggest, fastest firetruck in the air," said Jim Wheeler, CEO of Global SuperTanker Services.

But the company says the U.S. Forest Service is seeking to keep the plane grounded by offering a contract limiting firefighting aircraft to 5,000 gallons of fire suppressant and won't say why. The company says the federal agency is putting

homes and lives at risk just as the current wildfire season surges past the 10-year average for land area burned in a decade that includes some of the most destructive and deadly wildfire seasons on record.

Read the whole story

Heavenly ski patroller dies on Mt. Rainier



Dmitri Pajitnov

Dmitri Pajitnov moved to South Lake Tahoe from Seattle in the fall of 2011 to begin pursuing passions for the mountains and

medicine.

He became a ski patroller for Heavenly Mountain Resort as well as an emergency room technician for Barton Memorial Hospital.

Dmitri’s enthusiasm for everything outdoors and utmost respect for anyone who he met was an inspiring tribute to the type of person he was.

In the spring of 2016, Dmitri was accepted into medical school. After completing his first year of studies, he returned to Tahoe to get as much skiing in as possible. On his way back to school this month he stopped by one of his favorite mountains, Mt. Rainier, to get one last ski day in. Tragically, July 3, 2017, would be the last day he ever skied. He fell through a 5-foot snowbridge into an icy creek.

He was 30.

Everyone who had the pleasure of meeting Dmitri knows the impact that he had on everyone around him. He will be forever missed in the community.

A celebration for Dmitri Pajitnov will be July 18 at 5pm at Lakeside Beach House Grill.

Seaplane firm operating in Tahoe without a permit

A Marin County-based company is advertising trips via seaplane to Tahoe City. The problem is they don’t have a permit to do so.

Seaplane Adventures’ website lists a Sausalito to Tahoe City

flight and a Palo Alto to Tahoe flight. It's not specific about where exactly in Tahoe for that second excursion.

"Seaplane operations – which includes the use of a permanent facility for the landing, takeoff, fueling, maintenance, or storage of a seaplane, are not a permissible use at Tahoe City Marina," Tom Lotshaw with that Tahoe Regional Planning Agency told *Lake Tahoe News*. "There is one area on the lake – Homewood commercial area – where seaplane operations were grandfathered in as a permissible, but special use. Any such activity would require a public hearing and TRPA approval."

That hasn't happened.

When *Lake Tahoe News* contacted Seaplane Adventures regarding a permit there was silence. Blackbird is the company that books the charter flights

Ana C. Henriquez with Seaplane Adventures just wanted to explain how a flight could be booked.

It is OK for recreational seaplanes to land and take off from Tahoe as long as they've going through the decontamination process that is similar to what boats go through.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Sandoval among governors wanting cybersecurity panel

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – The leadership of the National Governors Association, including incoming chairman Gov. Brian Sandoval,

repeated a plea to Congress on Friday to create a national committee to address cybersecurity threats.

Outgoing chairman and Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said cybersecurity, which has become a major threat as evidenced by recent actions including during the 2016 presidential campaign, does not have a single point of contact in Congress.

“We have implored the Congress to have a cybersecurity committee,” he said. “One does not exist today in the Congress.”

Read the whole story

Vice President Pence coming to Gardnerville

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Vice President Mike Pence is scheduled to headline the third annual Basque Fry in Gardnerville in August.

The event, hosted by Attorney General Adam Laxalt, is to celebrate Nevada’s rich Basque heritage.

The third incarnation of the event will be held Aug. 26 at the Corley Ranch.

Read the whole story

Weather creating dangerous fire conditions

By Marcella Corona, Reno Gazette-Journal

The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning for the Reno area.

As temperatures rise, the winds will picks up and low humidity will continues into Tuesday.

“The winds are so strong that any fire currently going will have a chance to spread rapidly, which is not good,” meteorologist Brian O’Hara said Sunday.

Read the whole story

Success in using UV light to kill invasive weeds

By Kathryn Reed

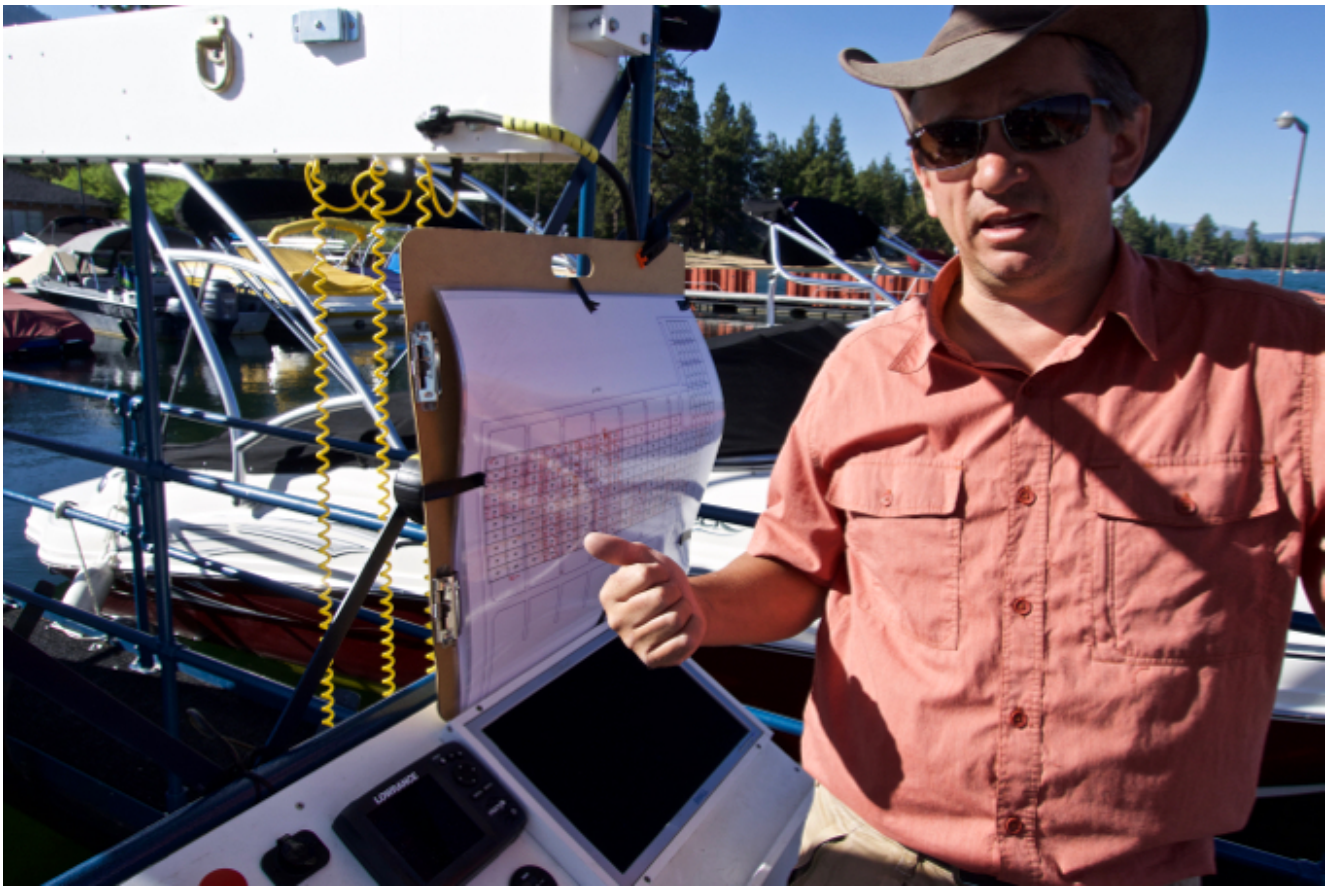
Light is usually a good thing to help plants grow. That’s not the case with ultra violet C light.

Invasive plants have been withering to nothing in the boat slips at Lakeside Marina. And that’s a good thing.

John Paoluccio, president of Inventive Resources Inc., is the creative genius behind this system. His special boat with a slew of devices was designed specifically to kill unwanted weeds in waterways.

Below the boat is a device that can hover just above the lake bottom. It’s air tight. No fish can get in, nor can they be killed if they touch the machine. It can be so precise that native plants can be left alone.

UVC light works by damaging the DNA and cellular structure of the plants. This then stops reproduction. Because there isn’t much cellular structure the plants essentially shrivel up and decompose in a matter of days. Eurasian milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and coontail are three of the main targets.



John Paoluccio is confident in his creation to rid invasive plants with UVC light. Photo/Kathryn Reed

This summer Paoluccio is testing his theory and equipment in a pilot program funded and overseen by the Tahoe Fund, California Tahoe Conservancy and Tahoe Resource Conservation District. The agencies have more than $260,000 invested, while Paoluccio has about the same just in the vessel and gear. That doesn’t take into account his research and sample tests to get

to this point.

Paoluccio is almost giddy as he talks about the success so far this summer. Invasive weeds at Lake Tahoe may have met their match.

It will be a two-year study, with more definitive results coming out in late 2018. But for now it’s working just like the engineer surmised it would.

Data about water temperature and turbidity are being collected. The amount of time to kill a plant, how far it is from the bottom and other data are also documented. The plant height is noted; some were 8-feet tall.

Paoluccio’s vessel moved through the marina working in each 20-foot-by-20-foot slip. If it weren’t for the generator powering the UV lights, it would be a silent process. Next up is going to the mouth of the marina and beyond to see how it works in more of an open water environment.

Those tasked with protecting Lake Tahoe are hopeful the success of this venture will allow for expanded use. So far it looks like the UVC combined with mats that suffocate the invasive plants could be the desired one, two punch.

Assuming the data proves the UVC effective, the next hurdle will be funding. After all, Lakeside is just one location with the weeds so cost-effective solution is desired by many. The Tahoe Keys is ground zero for the problem. The homeowners there have voted to use herbicides to deal with the weeds, though that project has not been permitted.

Billing dispute affects TK Marina fire hydrants



South Lake Tahoe firefighters last week clear brush from hydrants on Venice Drive. Photo/LTN

With the water being shut off to the Tahoe Keys Marina, this means the fire hydrants are not usable.

“We have contingencies in place for fire protection,” South Lake Tahoe Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News.* “The system does not have individual water shut offs, so both structures and hydrants are off.”

The water was shut off a week ago by the Tahoe Keys Water Department because the marina owners failed to pay their bill. This then led to El Dorado County health officials to shutter the Fresh Ketch restaurant. A food establishment is not allowed to operate without running hot and cold water.

— Lake Tahoe News staff report

Nev. among states targeted by gay rights group

By Julie Pace, AP

The Human Rights Campaign, one of the nation's leading gay rights groups, is launching a $26 million political organizing effort ahead of next year's midterm elections.

While the effort is nationwide, the group is focusing its resources in particular on several key states: Nevada, Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin. All six states are expected to have competitive Senate races next fall, and each is a presidential battleground.

HRC President Chad Griffin said the effort, which will include hiring at least 20 additional political staffers, aims to go "beyond resistance" – drawing from the phrase used by opponents of President Donald Trump's administration. He said the group will focus on fighting legislation curbing gay rights and backing "pro-equality candidates and initiatives."

Read the whole story