

# LTCC on quest to enroll more local students



The LTUSD and LTCC boards at their annual meeting on March 28. Photo/LTN

**By Kathryn Reed**

Lake Tahoe Community College wants to see more local students enrolling in the two-year institution.

From Lake Tahoe Unified School District's class of 2012 66.4 percent went to LTCC the following fall; class of 2013 – 66.5 percent; 2014 – 60.7 percent; and 2015 – 56.4 percent. It was noted that with the district having about 260 students graduating each year, it only takes a few students to skew the percentages.

This information was dispensed March 28 at the joint meeting of the two institutions' boards. An agenda item was post-secondary enrollment trends.

The stats provided involve those who graduated from South Tahoe High School, Mt. Tallac High School and the Tahoe Learning Center.

What doesn't show up in the numbers provided by LTCC is the students going to trade schools, using the knowledge they

gained through the various career technical education paths STHS has.

LTCC picks up more local graduates after they have been out of high school for a year or two. Administrators would like to find ways to attract them from the get-go. One way is through promise grants.

The staff report says, "Typical of many promise programs, fees and tuition are covered for students who enroll in the partner college in the fall following graduation from high school."

The college applied for a promise grant from the state, but was denied. LTCC President Jeff DeFranco said he's looking at partnering with other entities – agencies and businesses – in the area to possibly create a promise program.

Another incentive for local kids to go to LTCC is having earned college credits while at South Tahoe High. LTUSD and LTCC have a dual credit program that continues to expand. Staff believe 25 percent of high school students taking college classes is a realistic goal. There is also the potential that one day they will earn a high school diploma, and the next they could receive their associate of arts degree; this is happening in other parts of the state.

The current sophomores could have about 30 LTCC credits when they leave STHS through the dual credit program that was launched last school year.

Part of the relationship between LTUSD and LTCC includes sharing facilities. This cuts down on having duplicate buildings and everything needed for programs.

DeFranco said LTCC is paying attention to what students are majoring in when they leave Tahoe. This data could be critical when the university center comes into being. This will be where four-year institutions come to campus to offer bachelor's degrees without students having to leave South Lake

Tahoe.

The primary reason LTUSD students (67.2 percent) from the classes of 2012-15 went to LTCC was to obtain a degree, certificate or transfer. The top declared majors were business, liberal arts, medical office assistant, criminal justice and natural science.

Jeremy Brown, director of institutional effectiveness for LTCC, went over the certificates LTUSD students earned at other institutions. They include corrections officer, general education, emergency medical technician, firefighter 1, leadership, massage therapy and medical assisting.

"The areas where we don't have certificates may be potential areas for growth," Brown told the boards.

The following are the number of LTUSD students who have gone on to higher education within one year of graduation and to what type of institution:

• **Class of 2012**

Private or for profit – 7

Out of state public four year – 16

Out of state public two year – 3

California public four year – 37

Other California community college – 21

LTCC – 123

(Total – 207)

• **Class of 2013**

Private or for profit – 6

Out of state public four year – 18

Out of state public two year – 1

California public four year – 44

Other California community college – 26

LTCC –95

(Total 190)

• **Class of 2014**

Private or for profit – 14

Out of state public four year – 16

Out of state public two year – 2

California public four year – 54

Other California community college – 24

LTCC – 84

(Total 194)

• **Class of 2015**

Private or for profit – 12

Out of state public four year – 14

Out of state public two year – 4

California public four year – 29

Other California community college – 25

LTCC – 87

(Total 171).

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# DCSD announces end of school dates

Douglas County School District has set dates for when students will end this school year.

Zephyr Cove Elementary and Whittell High schools end the year June 22, valley schools end June 8.

Snow days – of which there were five at the lake this winter – can extend the year.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

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# Nevada eyeing annual legislative sessions

By Sandra Chereb, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Legislators would meet every year for limited times and be paid on a regular basis under a proposed constitutional amendment introduced Monday in the Nevada Senate.

Lawmakers have tried for years without success to change the state Constitution to allow for annual sessions.

The Constitution limits the Legislature to meeting in odd-numbered years for no more than 120 calendar days. Sessions

begin on the first Monday in February.

**Read the whole story**

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# **U.S. has a \$4 trillion infrastructure time bomb**

**By James Cook, BBC News**

On the banks of California's Feather River, way below the tallest dam in the United States, is a ballet of steel and stone.

The dancers are huge earth-moving machines, their costumes bright yellow. The movement at the Oroville dam is constant and mesmerizing.

The average age of the 90,000 dams in the United States is 56 years. By 2025, seven out of 10 of them will be more than half a century old.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) warns that "many dams are not expected to safely withstand current predictions regarding large floods and earthquakes".

Overall, says the society, \$4.6 trillion will be needed by 2025 to bring U.S. infrastructure to an acceptable standard. Less than half that amount has so far been allocated for the work.

**Read the whole story**

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# February gaming revenue drops throughout Nev.

Most gaming venues in Nevada reported declines in February compared to 2016, with the statewide gaming win down 4.5 percent or \$945.6 million.

Stateline casinos were off 6.93 percent at \$15.053 million. North Shore casinos were down 3.66 percent or nearly \$2 million.

Downtown Las Vegas was the only market of the 19 in the state to report a year-over-year gain for February, the state Gaming Control Board reported Tuesday.

One difference between this year and last is that 2016 was a leap year so it had an extra day.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Federal grant would help STPUD with meters

**By Kathryn Reed**

South Tahoe Public Utility District is in line to get a \$297,606 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to be used for its water meter project.

California is mandating most water districts install meters by 2025. The original thinking was that this would get people to lower their use of water.

Comments are being taken until April 7 on the bureau's **draft environmental assessment** regarding the grant.

The money would be used to install the smart metering system radio towers, receiving equipment, and software. If awarded, it would mean the district could borrow less money from the state.

Nearly three years ago the district applied for a \$21.5 million loan from the state that it thought was going to come with a zero percent interest rate. The State Water Resources Control Board changed the rules, saying that rate was for districts with 10,000 or fewer customers.

STPUD tried to appeal that ruling, but the state chose not to hear the appeal.

The meters being installed this construction season are being paid for with the loan that has a 1.6 percent interest rate for 20 years.

"The future phases for the final 5,000 meters, currently under review in the state's legal department, is at 1.8 percent for 30 years. For this future contract, the district is eligible for 'green reserve funds', up to a maximum of \$4M, which would be a principal forgiveness grant," Richard Solbrig, STPUD executive director, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We will not know if we receive this until they issue the actual contract from their legal department, hopefully within the next month."

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# Self-driving van in S. Tahoe to test the snow

By Darrell Etherington, TechCrunch

Waymo is working on one of the key areas it still needs to tackle ahead of any general public launch of its self-driving technology: snow.

The company's vehicles still had a lot to learn in this specific realm as of late last year, and it's one of the most challenging road conditions any autonomous vehicle can face, because of the effects of deep cold and blanketing snow not only on traction and vehicle handling, but also on sensors and optics.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik posted a tweet Monday with an image of the Waymo Chrysler Pacifica minivan, kitted out with its in-house self-driving sensor technology, in a snowy setting at South Lake Tahoe.

**[Read the whole story](#)**

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## Indian casinos rethinking how to attract customers

By Richard Chang, Sacramento Bee

The region's Indian casino scene could soon get more crowded.

With two casino projects on the horizon in an already bustling

market, tribal operators old and new will have to offer entertainment and other amenities to retain the loyalty of customers in what experts say is a gaming market that will soon reach a breaking point.

“There are a finite number of gamblers,” said Rich Hoffman, CEO of the Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort in Amador County. “The more times you split that pie up, the fewer customers you have.”

California has 59 casinos and ranks behind only Nevada – with 270 casinos – in terms of gaming revenues.

When and if the new casinos open, they are expected to take much of their business from regional competitors.

**Read the whole story**

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# **Boulders keep falling along Hwy. 50 in Nev.**



Rocks continue to fall in Nevada along Highway 50. Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

The evidence of the unstable slope along Highway 50 at Logan Shoals continues to pile up in what was the No. 2 travel lane and along the shoulder.

“Many of the boulders which have fallen into blocked-off travel lanes remain there as another physical object and barrier to help further diffuse and prevent future rock fall from reaching the travel lanes,” Meg Ragonese with the Nevada Department of Transportation told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The inaccessible travel lane will stay that way until crews can stabilize the slope. That should happen this summer.

The right eastbound lane has been off-limits since early February when multiple SUV-sized boulders fell into that lane. Since then NDOT has placed two rows of concrete barrier rail as well as large bags of gravel to prevent other boulders from

landing on vehicles or impeding traffic.

"We are right now finalizing design of a road improvement project to stabilize and reinforce the roadside slope," Ragonese said.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **Man dies falling from Harveys parking structure**

A Fresno man accidentally fell to his death from the top of Harveys' parking garage on Sunday.

David Garcia, 29, was found unresponsive next to the Stateline parking structure about 3am March 26.

Witnesses told Douglas County sheriff's deputies that Garcia had been drinking alcohol during the evening, and had left the casino at 2:20am.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*