# Letter: TAP takes a turn at Bread & Broth

**To the community,**

Helping to meet the needs of those who struggle with hunger, Bread & Broth serves evening meals on Mondays at St. Theresa Church Grace Hall and Thursdays at Lake Tahoe Community Presbyterian Church. B&B is able to serve these meals thanks to the generosity of our many community sponsors and donors.

Hosting the July 27 meal was Tahoe Arts Project, B&B's most recent sponsor of an Adopt A Day of Nourishment.

"Tahoe Arts Project is very pleased to be here for the Adopt A Day program," said Peggy Blowney, Tahoe Arts Project executive director. "This is a wonderful program that is extremely important for our community."

Blowney and fellow Tahoe Arts Project members Mary Lamore, Molly Watkins and Nancy Muller spent three hours with B&B volunteers working enthusiastically to provide giveaway bags and a dinner consisting of nutritious and tasty foods for the evening's guests.

Tahoe Arts Project's goal is to enrich the lives of Lake Tahoe community members with particular focus on children through their arts and education programs in schools.  Bread & Broth thanks and commends Tahoe Arts Project for striving to provide cultural enrichment and diversity for our community and also show concerned for the impact of hunger on the lives of our fellow community members.

For more B&B information, go online or find us on Facebook.

**Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth**

# Opinion: Crime increasing in South Lake Tahoe

**By Brian Uhler**

**Community outreach:** The Meet the Police outreach campaign is going well. As a reminder, Coffee with a Cop happens on Thursdays and ends on Aug. 27.  The Police Open House was well attended and we look forward to doing it again next year.

**Operation Chill:** To make connections with younger people in situations which are not related to law enforcement, the department has partnered with 7-Eleven in something called Operation Chill. Our officers will look for young people doing something positive and “ticket” them with a coupon for a free Slurpee. Such good acts might be things like wearing bike helmets, using crosswalks, being nice, or just as a way for police staff to start a conversation with young people.



Brian Uhler

**General summer information:** So far, the community has fared very well this summer from a police perspective. Our July 4 festivities went very well with our visitors only being minimally mischievous. While traffic flow has been difficult with summer construction and a high number of tourists, we have had only a few serious accidents. Tragically, one

accident was a motorcycle accident where a young female passenger died from a head injury.  Motorcyclists are reminded to always wear a proper helmet with the DOT sticker.

**Live at Lakeview:** The summer music events have been going smoothly. While we would prefer to have those attending follow the simple rules, it has been necessary for our officers to write three or four citations during each of our Thursday events (mostly for open alcohol container or smoking). Let's work together to make sure these events remain family friendly.

**Crime:** While we are pleased to see rape and motor vehicle thefts are down, our community has seen large increases in the numbers of assaults and thefts this year. Overall, this year's crime rate is up 12 percent.  Essentially, the positive results for 2014 compared to 2013 have been reversed. In 2014, we saw a decrease in violent crime (down 3.4 percent) and a decrease in property crime (down 11.8 percent).  The following chart compares the first seven months of last year against the first seven months of this year:

| **Crime** | **2014** | **2015** | **% change** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Rape | 6 | 4 | -33% |
| Robbery | 8 | 10 | +20% |
| Assault | | | |

229
255 +10%

Burglary
59
59 0%

Theft
187
234 +20%

Motor Vehicle Theft
27
21 -22%

**Total**
**516**
**583 12%**

**Crime prevention:** In light of the above information, please lock-up your things and avoid situations which might lead to an assault. While this may seem overly simple, we see many occasions where these simple measures might have prevented a crime altogether. Lastly, do your part to report suspicious activity so we might have a better chance at catching those who commit crime.

*Brian Uhler is the police chief in South Lake Tahoe.*

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# Opinion: Learning from strangers

**By Debra Carpenter, Huffington Post**

“Come on, it’s time to go! I’m burning up out here!”

I sat at the neighborhood park, ablaze with the summer heat and more than a little irritated that my daughter was taking so long to finish her “last” go around on the jungle gym. She continued to play, blissfully unaware of my growing aggravation.

I called for her again, this time with a scary edge to my voice – “I SAID, IT’S TIME TO GO! WE HAVE THINGS TO DO!”

The woman sitting next to me turned to me, touched my arm, and smiled understandingly. If she had smiled any other way – sarcastically, condescendingly,or even gleefully – I might have yelled at her, too.

But no, she seemed understanding and kind and way better at the parenting thing than I was. Her two grandchildren were peacefully playing and had been since we got there. Without her saying a word, I could already tell – this woman was wise.

**Read the whole story**

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# Opinion: Teaching social skills makes a difference

**By David Bornstein, New York Times**

In the early 1990s, about 50 kindergarten teachers were asked to rate the social and communication skills of 753 children in their classrooms. It was part of the Fast Track Project, an intervention and study administered in Durham, N.C., Nashville, Seattle and central Pennsylvania. The goals were to understand how children develop healthy social skills, and

help them do so.

Using an assessment tool called the “Social Competence Scale,” the teachers were asked to assign each child a score based on qualities that included “cooperates with peers without prompting”; “is helpful to others”; “is very good at understanding feelings”; and “resolves problems on own.”

This month, researchers from Pennsylvania State University and Duke published a study that looked at what had happened to those students in the 13 to 19 years since they left kindergarten. Their findings warrant major attention because the teachers’ rankings were extremely prescient.

**Read the whole story**

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# Letter: Stop overdeveloping the Tahoe area

**To the community,**

Two spectacularly bad ideas:

Martis Valley West (MVW) and the Brockway Campground (BC) are Proposals with cumulative impacts:

1. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) and Mountainside Partners (aka East/West) is the developer on both.

2. Both adjacent projects are located on the ridge overlooking Tahoe and Truckee one mile west from Highway 267 on Mt. Watson Road.

3. Both projects propose massive development-MVW is 760 homes

in a gated community plus 6.6 acres of commercial. Brockway Campground is huge-550 campsites/RV spaces/yurts on approx. 150 acres. (Yosemite is 1,169 square miles and has only 1,445 campsites.)

4. 4,000-plus people will occupy the iconic ridge between Tahoe and Truckee; 1,900-plus for the gated community MVW and up to 3000 for the campground (Yosemite Valley Family Campground's 459 sites accommodate 2,754 people)

5. Both projects will alter the rules: MVW lands will require rezoning from forest/conservation and the campground will require a special use.

Why these two adjacent proposals are a terrible idea for the region:

1. Destruction of an important wildlife corridor and natural setting.

2. Degradation of an important recreational open space.

3. Traffic congestion and gridlock.

4. Diminished air quality.

5. Permanently ruins community character and vision.

6. Dangerous precedent to justify further development along Tahoe's iconic ridgelines.

7. Loss of nighttime dark skies.

8. Ground water loss.

9. Scenic loss.

How much can the Tahoe basin absorb before you don't recognize it anymore? Isn't trading development from the Martis Valley onto the ridge above Tahoe just moving Truckee problems to Tahoe which has less capacity to handle them? Who is looking

at the big picture? Where is TRPA?

**Anne Nichols, North Tahoe Preservation Alliance**

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# Opinion: Iraq vet unnerved when raided by cops

**By Alex Horton, Washington Post**

*Alex Horton is a member of the Defense Council at the Truman National Security Project. He served as an infantryman in Iraq with the Army's 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.*

I got home from the bar and fell into bed soon after Saturday night bled into Sunday morning. I didn't wake up until three police officers barged into my apartment, barking their presence at my door. They sped down the hallway to my bedroom, their service pistols drawn and leveled at me.

It was just past 9am, and I was still under the covers. The only visible target was my head.

In the shouting and commotion, I felt an instant familiarity. I'd been here before. This was a raid.

I had done this a few dozen times myself, 6,000 miles away from my Alexandria, Va., apartment. As an Army infantryman in Iraq, I'd always been on the trigger side of the weapon. Now that I was on the barrel side, I recalled basic training's most important firearm rule: Aim only at something you intend to kill.

I had conducted the same kind of raid on suspected bombmakers and high-value insurgents. But the Fairfax County officers in

my apartment were aiming their weapons at a target whose rap sheet consisted only of parking tickets and an overdue library book.

**Read the whole story**

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# Opinion: If you care about California, you should care about Salinas

**By Joe Mathews**

Do you worry about the future of California?

Then you should worry about Salinas. Because if this Monterey County town of 155,000 can't build itself a brighter future, it's hard to imagine other struggling places doing the same.



Joe Mathews

"Rich in land. Rich in Values. Ripe With Opportunity," reads the slogan on a city website, and that's no exaggeration. Salinas might be the richest poor city in California.

So many poor California cities sit well inland, but Salinas is just eight miles from the Pacific. It's part of the prosperous

Monterey Bay region, and close enough to Silicon Valley that rising apartment rents are a problem. The Salinas Valley is known as the Salad Bowl of the World, a center for producing leafy greens and berries at a time when healthy foods have never been more popular. It's rich in culture – from the dynamic Alisal neighborhood to the old downtown – and the newest California State University campus is a 10-minute drive away. Its citizens are deeply engaged in their neighborhoods.

But, by the numbers, Salinas borders on the nightmarish. Its homicide rate remains stubbornly high – more than twice that of Los Angeles'; the year 2015 began with 10 shootings, including four deaths, in an 11-day period. It has some of the highest rates of child poverty in the state, and lags the rest of California in high school graduation rates, amount of park space per person, and measures of public health.

As a columnist traveling around California, this mismatch between its horrible statistics and its obvious strengths makes Salinas easily the most confounding city in the state. Why does Salinas add up to so much less than the sum of its parts?

Two of its handicaps are fundamental: it's a midsized city and it's in California. Salinas is one of 60 cities in this state of between 100,000 and 300,000 people, too many of which are dysfunctional; Salinas' municipal sisters include bankrupt Stockton and San Bernardino. Many Salinas-sized cities started as smaller towns and grew to have all the problems of any urban place, while retaining the weak local governments and public resources of small towns. And California's governing system famously limits the power of local officials to shape their communities' own destinies.

Salinas, to its credit, has more than its share of people who have tried to transform the community anyway. Many of its leading citizens were part of the 1970s farmworker movement – or are the children of those who were – and there is almost no

constituency for the status quo in Salinas. People know the city needs to change.

But, perversely, the ambitions of Salinas have served mainly to create more frustration.

People in Salinas are very good at starting things – but finding the public resources to maintain them has been harder. Driving around town, you can see how Salinas is littered with public institutions it couldn't quite sustain so they had to be taken over by private entities – a golf course, a public swimming pool, a performing arts center. The struggling National Steinbeck Center is about to be rescued by CSU Monterey Bay.

Of course, Salinas has problems that are peculiar to it. While residents like to tout the wealth of the city's agriculture industry, agriculture relies on low-wage workers and migrants, which is why agriculturally oriented cities are often poor and plantation-like in their social structure. And while Salinas boasts remarkable diversity, it's also been marked by segregation and racism. Monterey County (Salinas is the county seat) was one of three California counties that, until recently, had to get federal approval for changes in its election rules because of its history of voting discrimination. The divide between East Salinas and the rest of the city dates back across decades of discrimination.

In this age of inequality, Salinas's prosperous surroundings do it no favors. The economic successes of Monterey and the Bay Area can make the climb Salinas faces seem steeper than it really is.

It also makes people in Salinas feel isolated. Steinbeck called Salinas "a closed pot" cut off "from the sky and from all the rest of the world," a line that still gets quoted by residents even though their city is a California crossroads. It's right on Highway 101, linking north and south, the coast

and the agricultural inland.

Salinas is an All-America City, too. That's not opinion – it's an official designation, issued just last month, by the National Civic League. And, suitably, it's a double-edged award. It recognizes all the efforts in Salinas to address community problems—of which there is an all-American abundance.

*Joe Mathews is California and innovation editor for Zócalo Public Square, for which he writes the Connecting California column. This column is part of Salinas: California's Richest Poor City, a special project of Zócalo Public Square and the California Wellness Foundation.*

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# Opinion: California is falling apart

**By Patt Morrison, Los Angeles Times**

On July 19 the collapse of a "functionally obsolete" bridge shut down nearly 50 miles of Interstate 10. What was the problem? Too much rain, too little infrastructure. Infrastructure? Don't stop reading: Your life, literally, depends on infrastructure. Steven P. Erie, a political science professor at UC San Diego, says that if California infrastructure were a student in his class, he'd give it an "F." His many books – the latest is "Paradise Plundered," about San Diego's civic failings – detail the scale of California's governance mess and the massive task of remedying our la-de-da attitude that freeways and airports and levees built 60, 80, 100 years ago will last forever.

The I-10 bridge washout makes me think of the adage, “For want of a nail, a horseshoe was lost, for want of a shoe, a horse was lost, and ultimately a kingdom is lost – all for want of a nail.”

It’s bridges, it’s pavement; we have difficulty expanding our airports and ports. California, and particularly Southern California, used to be a world leader in physical infrastructure, and we’ve gone from the top of the pack in 1960 to the bottom. We have been asleep at the wheel. We’re like Rip Van Winkle when it comes to infrastructure maintenance.

**Read the whole story**




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# Opinion: Hunting lions needs to end

**By Dereck Joubert, National Geographic**

In the wake of Cecil the lion’s killing in Zimbabwe we are seeing real conversations about hunting: its viability and its ethics.

It has opened some tough discussions, like if we should all boycott Zimbabwe, or whether lion hunting is in any shape or form a viable conservation tool.

I don’t think it’s a good idea to boycott Zimbabwe. Thousands of local Zimbabweans live off photographic tourism and a range of other jobs that are not involved in hunting. Many of these people have chosen non-hunting industries because they already don’t like the business or ethics of hunting.

Just today I was filming some lions hunting zebras and I reflected on the difference between a hunting lion and a man hunting a lion. Both are undeniably violent acts. But one is necessary, the other is not. One is for food, the other is not. One involves no great celebration of death, one ends in high fives and alcohol celebrations and often some blooding rituals.

**Read the whole story**

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# Letter: A graveyard of trees at Camp Rich



Tree removal this summer at Camp Richardson. Photo/Liana Zambresky

**To the community,**

The USFS has done the deed. The trees have been cut.

The campground will never again be the same. I walked through it with dismay. As I looked at the big piles of dead trees and slash, and also at the few left standing, I asked myself why this is necessary? I saw a western tanager and robins hoping around on the piles of debris, as if they were also questioning why anyone would want to cut these trees. Why are they doing this in a campground that has already been here for decades?

Ever since the Angora Fire, the USFS has been on a relentless agenda to get rid of trees. However, in a place like Camp Richardson, where people want to be closer to nature and enjoy the Tahoe experience, they should have a gentler hand. This is a great tragedy. What they have done is too excessive. They are ruining Tahoe. They are ruining Camp Richardson. Everyone knows what a supermarket parking lot looks like. That’s not why people come to Tahoe to camp at Camp Rich.

**Liana Zambresky, South Lake Tahoe**