Opinion: Why is Timber Cove Pier charging for access?

To the community,

I went to Timber Cove Pier to watch the fireworks last Sunday night and "they" were charging to go out on the pier to watch the show. Then we sat on a bench and half an hour later we were informed by a large family that the bench we were on was reserved for them and "didn't we see the caution tape" indicating the "reservation" they had made through the Bistro restaurant manager?

What the heck is going on? Is it a public pier or privately owned and selling "views" to the highest bidder? We checked with someone at the Bistro and they didn't seem to know anything about it.

What's the story on Timber Cove Pier?

Denise Upton, South Lake Tahoe