

# LTCC to turn into fairgrounds Labor Day weekend

The second annual Kiwanis Community Fair is Aug. 29-Sept. 1 at Lake Tahoe Community College.

In addition to the carnival rides, there will be free family events that Saturday and Sunday, with craft booths, food, garden creations silent auction, art silent auction, jam making contest, pie eating contest and more.

All proceeds benefit youth programs in the area.

For more information about the event, or to sign up to have a booth, contact Anna Njoten at 530.541.4594 or [anna.njoten@tahoeturningpoint.org](mailto:anna.njoten@tahoeturningpoint.org).

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## Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Jackie

Jackie is one of several kittens at the shelter right now. She

is a beautiful and friendly gray tabby short hair kitten, 15 weeks old.

She's been at the shelter for over a month already, along with eight other kittens and cats, some of whom have been waiting for their new homes for more than five months.

Jackie is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

*– Karen Kuentz*

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## **TRTA needs help collecting user data**

Tahoe Rim Trail Association received a grant from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to help to determine the numbers and types of users on the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Volunteers are needed at all of TRT trailheads on July 26 to interact with the hikers, bikers, and equestrians and ask them questions.

The aim of this project is to collect data that will be used to encourage and improve alternative modes of transportation to the TRT trailheads.

Go online to register.

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## **Truckee working to rid town of graffiti**

Truckee has established a graffiti abatement team in response to a rash of graffiti in the area.

These individuals will work to remove graffiti in and around the Truckee area.

To have graffiti removed, call 530.582.7804.

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## **Consumers padding their checking accounts**

**By E. Scott Reckard, Los Angeles Times**

With wounds from the Great Recession still fresh, chastened Americans are hoarding more cash in their checking accounts than at any time in the last 25 years.

The defensive stance, uncharacteristic of previous periods of

low inflation and an improving economy, reflects how debt-burdened Americans have striven to clean up their personal finances since the recession ended five years ago.

The lack of attractive investment alternatives, with savings accounts paying next to nothing and the stock market already at lofty heights, is another factor, financial analysts said.

A report released this month by bank consulting firm Moebs Services Inc. calculated the average balance for U.S. checking accounts at \$4,436 at the end of last year – more than double the average of \$2,100 over the 25 years of the annual survey.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Meyers to host mountain bike fest**

The 2nd annual Meyers Mountain Bike Festival is Aug. 10 in the Divided Sky parking lot.

The festival kicks off with a Triple Crown Ride covering 30-plus miles and a 5,200 elevation gain. Registration is at 7:30am. The \$25 donation supports the Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association. Clif Bar will have water and fueling stations along the ride. All riders will receive a poster and T-shirt printed and designed by Rise Designs in Meyers, plus a raffle ticket.

Shuttles and demos will also be offered from 10am-2pm from the parking lot at the Divided Sky.

Starting at 3pm, there will be a celebration of mountain biking. Included are a beer garden, food, kids zone, and live

music.

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# Survey: Cleanliness a key to hotel guest satisfaction

By Catharine Hamm, Los Angeles Times

Hear that thunderous applause? As Pharrell Williams would say/sing, “Clap along if you know what happiness is to you.” If you’re a traveler, happiness apparently is a hotel, judging by a J.D. Power report released Wednesday.

The 2014 North American Hotel Guest Satisfaction Index Study shows satisfaction with accommodation hit a record: 784 points on a 1,000-point scale.

The results were collected between June 2013 and May of this year from more than 67,000 respondents in the U.S. and Canada who had stayed in a hotel in North America between May of last year and May of this year.

So what irks hotel guests most? It’s not a stingy loyalty program or noise or long lines at the front desk; it’s cleanliness – or lack thereof. Those guests who perceived their rooms as not clean generally were a whopping 213 points less satisfied than those who thought their rooms were clean.

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

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# Zac Brown puts plenty of rock in his country



Zac Brown delivers a high-energy concert July 20 at Harveys. Photos/Kathryn Reed

**By Susan Wood**

STATELINE – Despite a raucous storm that produced a widespread power outage affecting thousands of South Shore customers, the Zac Brown band electrified an enthusiastic audience who stood on their feet for most of the show at Harveys.

The drizzle that ended Sunday's dramatic summer storm did little to dampen the spirits of the Southern rock, country band or the audience at the casino's outdoor summer concert series. This is even with a late start that sent lines of people rushing to the food and drink concessionaires. (No French fries, though, with the cutter being electric, and only cash-only payments were accepted given no power.)

But the important thing – the show went on and turned out to be a huge hit.

Right after roadies took the tarps off the stage equipment, guitarist and vocalist Clay Cook entertained with a few acoustical numbers, including those performed by artists ranging from Ray Charles to John Mayer. The improvisation provided a key opening to the eight-member band waiting to be powered up.

Then, the power of the three-time Grammy award-winning band showed its appeal and its range, knocking out hits and popular numbers from their five albums and other artists' covers as well. Zac Brown, himself as lead, came out with a top hat on and asked is the audience: "Staying warm?"

Even if the air had cooled off considerably, the concert turned hot quickly.

Between the screams, fist pumps and dancing, the concertgoers rewarded the band with love. After all, not all country bands can go from singing a sentimental "falling in love" in the ACA-nominated "As She's Walking Away" to Cook's own rendition of Robert Plant from the legendary rock band Led Zeppelin.

From there, the band led by Brown on vocals and guitar and violinist Jimmy De Martini accompanying turned up its country prowess and heavy string influence with a perfect imitation of Charlie Daniels' "The Devil Went Down to Georgia." This was fitting, given Brown's roots come from Georgia, and he references the state in their huge hit "Toes."



People were on their feet for most of the entire sold-out show.

Still, Brown acknowledged his appreciation for Lake Tahoe and mentioned expecting to see a “wampus cat” in these rugged mountains. The cat is a type of cougar descending from Cherokee mythology.

“It’s a beautiful place,” he said, as drummer Daniel de Los Reyes flashed a peace sign. Reyes had just won a Percussionist of the Year 2014 Drummies award.

The sound quality appeared to reverberate through the mountains, and it especially proved pertinent when Brown slowed things down with poignant lyrics featured in “Sweet Annie” – “But one day lightning will strike, and my bark will lose its bite, but don’t give up on me.”

It was as though the audience was made up a giant Zac Brown fan club, mouthing the words to most of the songs.

“Their music is different than most modern music, with a lot of sex. They just like to have a good time,” Bella Wulfsberg of Rohnert Park said. The recent South Tahoe High School graduate, who had an urban picnic near Cecil’s Market before embarking on the concert, characterized one of her favorite bands as the guys next door who look after you.

These guys next door brought a rare combination of perfect



harmony in the vocals and synchronicity of their instruments as demonstrated in their stirring, back-to-back singles: "Free," "No Hurry," "Goodbye in Her Eyes" and "Knee Deep."

Sandwiched between sets, the band launched into a melancholy version of Van Morrison's "Into the Mystic." You could almost hear the "fog horn blow" to a tune that would "rock your gypsy soul."

During their own soulful ballad "Colder Weather," Brown got up and close and personal at stage level to take pictures of the audience with a cell phone. The melancholy sweetness of the song oozed from the stage. He tapped his heart as if touched by the reception and the song's effect on the audience.

From there, he gave out a heartfelt thank you to the concertgoers for attending, as some of the proceeds go to the band's charity Camp Southern Ground. It has raised more than \$2 million in the last few years to help special needs children. Brown was inspired since he spent summers as a camp counselor.

In a special tribute, members of the Armed Forces came out in uniform and saluted on stage during one of three encores the band performed.

The skeleton suits provided an interesting backdrop to a country band led by bassist and singer John Driskell Hopkins pulling off the hit Metallica song "Enter Sandman." The heavy metal band plays it in honor of former star New York Yankees closing pitcher Mariano Rivera.

Then in a complete melodic turnaround, the band got light and breezy with their biggest hit: "Chicken Fried." Brown didn't even need to sing. He put the microphone out and the audience eagerly belted out these laid-back lyrics and melody that are in large part what sent the group soaring on the charts.

## **Notes:**

Harveys will continue its lineup of concert performances with:

- Train, July 25
- Journey and Steve Miller, July 30
- Lady Gaga, Aug. 2
- Boston and the Doobie Brothers, Aug. 3
- Aerosmith, Aug. 8
- Bruno Mars, Aug. 14
- Sammy Hagar and Friends, Aug. 16
- Rascal Flatts and Sheryl Crow, Aug. 24.

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# **Opinion: TRYP sets the record straight**

**By Shannon Eckmeyer**

A statement made in an opinion column claiming the Tahoe Regional Young Professionals (TRYP) is “behind” a project relating to the Meyers Area Plan has given me the opportunity to explain to the community what the organization is actually about. While TRYP serves the needs of professionals throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin looking to engage in their community, TRYP does not take a stance on political or planning issues.

The mission of TRYP may be to connect members to the community

and network together, but we have evolved to so much more. As a proud member of the board and executive committee, I have been able to see our group grow substantially over the past two years and foster leadership within the basin.



TRYP started as the brainchild of our founding board members over three years ago who wanted to see a change in the Lake Tahoe community. These brave forefathers spent countless hours in pursuing the establishment of an organization that could truly connect young professionals.

Traditionally known for its younger transient population and well-established baby boomers, Lake Tahoe was never seen as a welcoming home to its next generation. Until now. TRYP currently has well over 100 active members throughout the region who are quickly becoming the pillars of the Lake Tahoe community.

Our civic engagement committee works hard to track and share information where people can learn more and think for themselves on the many different issues facing our community. TRYP presents opportunities to empower Lake Tahoe's generation autonomously and also in collaboration with local organizations. TRYP recently partnered with the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce to host a panel for the El Dorado County supervisor candidates. It is unfortunate one of those very candidates does not understand the mission of TRYP or work to find information before associating us in a recent opinion piece in *Lake Tahoe News*.

Not only does TRYP provide different membership and networking events, but we are also active in volunteering, fundraising, and giving back to our community. TRYP provides leadership scholarships to members. We organize monthly volunteer events and host the Winter White FUNdraising event every year. The event is truly spectacular and one that I invite the community to attend in November. It is a night that is full of fun and

aimed at raising money for a local nonprofit. Last year TRYP raised over \$4,000 for the Lake Tahoe Boys & Girls Club.

Our organization is truly crafting the upcoming leaders and decision makers for Lake Tahoe. We are creating an environment that supports our community's professional talent so they want to stay, raise a family here, open their own business here, and contribute to our economy. We want to be proud of the Lake Tahoe community we care so deeply about and use it as an example to surrounding areas. I urge everyone in the community, no matter what your age is, to come see a TRYP event in action. Our mixers are the second Wednesday of every month and our professional development workshops are the third Wednesday. To learn more about membership and sponsor opportunities please visit our website and reach out with questions to TahoeTRPY@gmail.com. We want you to get involved and help us to continue to empower Lake Tahoe.

*Shannon Eckmeyer is member relations director for Tahoe Regional Young Professionals.*

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## Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Whittell High School student Melissa Petty won the sixth annual Gene Upshaw Scholarship at this year's American Century Championship. Petty's essay was about her hard work in the classroom, sports, faith and goodwill. NBC Sports and Edgewood Companies contributed equally to the \$5,000 scholarship.
- Here are the Sierra and El Dorado-Tahoe roadwork schedules for this week from Caltrans.

- Wendy David is the first person to turn in papers to run for South Lake Tahoe City Council.
- June Lake Loop Mountain Music Festival is July 25-27.
- To sign up for reverse 911 notifications in El Dorado County go online, then click on the image of the phone, cell phone and "@" symbol to fill out the form. Here is a link for Douglas County residents to sign up. South Lake Tahoe residents may sign up here for various alerts.