

# Calif. climate-related disasters impacting home insurance

By Molly Peterson, KQED-TV

Insurers can calculate how likely your home is to burn down in a wildfire, or flood in a high tide, and for some time now they've been using climate science to shape those estimates.

KQED science reporter Molly Peterson spoke with state Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones. He told her the growing risk of climate-related disasters is already hitting the insurance market.

"We've seen about a 15 percent increase in nonrenewals. Now, that doesn't mean that those 15 percent can't find any insurance. But the company they did have decided it was too risky to write insurance for them and decided not to renew them," Jones said.

[Read the whole story](#)

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# More Nev. kids have health insurance, but state 9th worst

By Jessie Bekker, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The number of children in Nevada without health insurance was

cut by more than half between 2011 and 2016, but the state's rate of uninsured kids remains the ninth-highest in the U.S., according to a report.

The gains in insurance coverage occurred after passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and Nevada's subsequent expansion of the federal Medicaid program, said Elizabeth Lukanen, deputy director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center. The policy research center based at the University of Minnesota released the report Friday.

**Read the whole story**

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## **SLTPD searching for vehicle, suspect**



A vehicle that looks like this is being sought by SLTPD.

The South Lake Tahoe Police Department still has not located the person believed to be responsible for the **shooting death** of a local man on June 11.

Police are looking for a a light colored Pontiac Aztec that

the suspect is believed to have fled in.

Gregory Mitchoff, 62, died from multiple gunshot wounds. He was found in the 3600 block of Spruce Ave.

Anyone with information is asked to call SLTPD at 530.542.6110.

South Lake Tahoe Secret Witness is offering a \$2,500 reward for anyone who provides information leading to the conviction of the perpetrators of this crime. Secret Witness can be reached at 530.541.6800.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## Rock slide on Echo Summit causes delays



A deliberate rock slide on Highway 50 near Meyers on June 19. Photo/LTN

**Updated: 5:01pm:**

Expect delays on Echo Summit for much of the week as Caltrans works to stabilize the hillside.

“We have a rock-scaling operation to knock down loose material, today through Thursday. They’re working 12-hour shifts with one-way traffic control, 6am to 6pm,” Steve Nelson with Caltrans told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Traffic is delayed at least 15 minutes.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **Open Nev. seats play role in control of U.S. House**

**By Ramona Giwargis, Las Vegas Review-Journal**

Two Nevada congressional seats are in play this November, setting up a showdown between national Democrats vying to win a House majority and Republicans determined to expand control of the chamber.

The pair of open seats are up for grabs because Democrats are vacating them. Rep. Jacky Rosen is leaving the 3rd Congressional District seat to run for the U.S. Senate. Rep. Ruben Kihuen is not seeking re-election in the 4th Congressional District amid accusations of sexual misconduct.

And while political analysts say the seats lean Democrat, national Republicans are coming after them. Both districts are top targets for the National Republican Congressional Committee – especially the 3rd Congressional District, which President Donald Trump won in 2016 by 1 percentage point.

**Read the whole story**

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# LTCC creating new gathering spot on campus



Workers on June 18 place pavers at Coyote Legacy Plaza. Photo/Kathryn Reed

With a special tool and eye toward precision, workers on June 18 were carefully placing the pavers for Coyote Legacy Plaza.

This circular area between the physical education building and the soccer field at Lake Tahoe Community College will be finished by the time graduation takes place June 29.

The idea was launched a year ago with the goal of people donating money for an engraved paver. The money raised paid for a bronze coyote – the school mascot – to be commissioned. It will be about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the size of a real coyote.

It will go in the center of a stone/rock area people can sit on, with the pavers circling the statue area. The artwork will be illuminated at night.

As more people buy pavers, that money will be put toward student scholarships and staff grants. They range from \$250 to \$2,500 depending on size.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# **Douglas County strengthening VHR regulations**

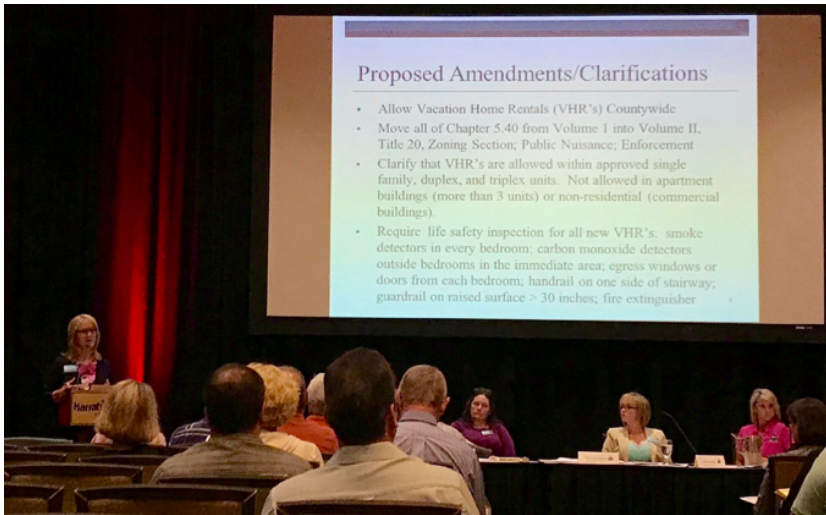
**By Kathryn Reed**

STATELINE – Douglas County is putting some teeth into its short-term rental ordinance in an effort to curtail problems and bring more oversight to the issue.

County officials came up with the ordinance and are just now engaging the public. The plan is for the ordinance to go for a vote by the Board of Commissioners in August.

June 18 was the first opportunity for residents and others to ask county staff questions, offer suggestions and give advice on the draft ordinance. Twenty people spoke during the three-hour meeting at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Staff said adjustments will be made based on public feedback.

A few issues are still being worked out, which is where public testimony is critical. One item that was brought up Monday was whether bear boxes will be mandated in the Carson Valley. The county hasn't decided.



Mimi Moss, left, explains Douglas County's draft VHR ordinance. Photo/LTN

Many comments centered on whether homeowners' associations because the county's rules will in some ways supersede the HOA rules. Mary Anne Martin, deputy district attorney, said the county will consider what the HOA wants, but the county will make its decision based on its rules. Owners will then have to contend with the HOA separately.

Still, it was a much quieter, more respectful gathering on June 18 compared to meetings in South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County. It helped that there was not a time limit for people to talk so people had the opportunity to say everything they wanted. Plus, not a single elected official was at the front table. It was reps from planning, code enforcement and the District Attorney's Office who led the meeting, with Host Compliance also there. Also allowed was some dialogue with audience members after the formal comment period ended in order to get questions fully answered, and new comments to be voiced.

While a few regulations will be similar to what South Lake Tahoe has adopted, Douglas County officials more than once said they don't want to be unfriendly like its neighbor to the west. Some of those who spoke also belittled what the city has done, including limiting the number of VHRs that are allowed.

The county in its paperwork made a point of saying what the ordinance won't do. It won't limit the number of VHRs, it won't mirror South Lake Tahoe's regulations and it won't allow grandfathering of a VHR.

Part of the code change takes the VHR ordinance out of Business and Revenue and puts it into Zoning/Planning. This allows penalties and fines to be issued.

The number of fines and revocations to date has been low because there has been little recourse based on how things are currently written. Going forward it's likely the fine will be \$250/day if the owner is out of compliance, with a maximum of \$10,000. Unpermitted vacation home rentals would face a \$500 fine per day.

Parking will be restricted to on-site for overnight. The county will not be enforcing daytime parking. Ninety-eight percent of complaints are parking, according to the county.

Occupancy will be changed from two per bedroom plus four to two per bedroom plus two. This was a bone of contention for many in attendance because people believe their house can accommodate more than the proposed rule without it being an issue.

"We believe if we curtail that number, it takes care of some of the problem of overcrowding in the residence," Mimi Moss with the county said. Building code already has two per bedroom.

Josh Priou with Lake Tahoe Accommodations said the occupancy change would affect 30 percent of their rentals, which could equate to a decrease of \$135,000 in transient occupancy tax for the county on an annual basis because of the need to lower the nightly rental fee.

All new permits and renewals will require a life safety inspection, which has been going on for the last 2½ months.



The VHR permit fee will go from \$100 to \$250, with renewals increasing \$125 to \$200.

Hot tub use won't be allowed between 10pm and 8am.

One way the county will be able to enforce the rules is by hiring Host Compliance, a Bay Area firm that since 2010 has been helping jurisdictions find rentals – permitted and not, offer a complaint hot line and provide data. This is the same company South Lake Tahoe and Truckee use.

Ulrik Binzer with Host Compliance said the short-term rental market has grown 800 percent since 2011. When his company started there were 16 websites that were regularly patrolled. Now there are 50, with those targeting 90 percent of the portals where people list their homes.

His stats show there are 1,272 unique rental units in Douglas County, with 90 percent in the Tahoe area. The median nightly rate is \$295. Ninety percent are entire house rentals.

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#### **Notes:**

- Future meetings:

July 10, 9am – Douglas County Planning Commission, CVIC Hall, Minden

Aug. 2, 10am – Board of Commissioners, CVIC Hall, Minden

Aug. 16, 1:30pm – Board of Commissioners, Harrah's Lake Tahoe

Sept. 6, 10am – Board of Commissioners, Minden (optional meeting if first and second readings are not taken care of in August)

- Draft ordinance is **online**.

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# **I-80 near Truckee to be closed early Tues.**

Eastbound Interstate 80 will be closed approximately 13 miles east of Truckee near Farad from 4-8am June 19 in order to remove a truck and trailer from the Truckee River canyon.

Towing efforts on Monday to remove the crashed truck and trailer from the canyon were unsuccessful. A full closure of both freeway lanes is required for the removal.

All eastbound Interstate 80 traffic will be stopped at Highway 267 at 4am. Towing activities may take several hours. Caltrans anticipates to reopen the freeway at 8am.

Significant traffic delays are expected and local highways may be impacted. Motorists are encouraged to plan for delays and adjust their travel time accordingly.

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# **El Nino may be back by winter**

**By Brian K. Sullivan, Bloomberg**

It's time to start watching natural gas, coffee and cocoa markets again – because a weather-changing El Nino could be arriving just in time for winter.

The U.S. Climate Prediction Center issued an El Nino watch across the equatorial Pacific Thursday, with the odds jumping to 64 percent chance that it will come from December to

February. That's up from a 49 percent chance in the agency's monthly report in May.

**Read the whole story**

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# **Official: Washoe Lake Dam could breach**

**By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal**

The Washoe Lake Dam has an apparent leak that could undermine the structure and cause it to fail.

That's according to the Nevada Division of Water Resources which is marshaling resources to make an emergency repair, according to State Engineer Jason King.

"When you have seepage going through an earthen embankment... all of a sudden you can have a failure," King said.

**Read the whole story**