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World Cup finish
Squaw Valley skier Travis Ganon takes 10th in Bormio.
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Vol. 56 • No. xx | **Serving Lake Tahoe's South Shore communities** | Friday, January 3, 2014 | **FREE**

Ringling in the new year

By Griffin Rogers
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Fireworks lit up the sky at SnowGlobe Tuesday night as thousands of festivalgoers welcomed the new year in a barrage of color and sound.

At midnight, dozens of balloons bounced around a cheering crowd while Cut Copy, an Australian electronic band, played its way into 2014.

For San Francisco resident David Zern, there was no other place he'd rather be.

"It's where the magic happens," Zern, 21, said.

South Lake Tahoe was a popular destination for tourists on New Year's Eve. Some spent the last of 2013 testing their luck at casino games, while others stood on the sports field at Lake Tahoe Community College and listened to Cut Copy, Snoop Dogg and more.

Julien Salah, a friend of Zern's, said he came back to the area for New Year's Eve after having a positive experience in 2012.

"It's the biggest event on New Year's," he said. "It's when everyone is out."

Makena Hyde, 20, was with her friend, Autumn Osmus, as they waited for 2014 to begin. Hyde came to the South Shore to visit her boyfriend's family and to see the festival for the first time.

"It (SnowGlobe) sounded epic," Hyde said.

Osmus, a South Lake Tahoe local for 16 years, attended the event to support tourism and growth in the area. She said she enjoys the concert, which is great for all ages.

"It's a huge town event," Osmus, 31, said.

At the concert, many festivalgoers reflected on 2013, while also making plans for the future.

Hyde's New Year's resolution was to keep focused. But Zern, on the other hand, wanted to make more money.

Osmus said her mission was to start getting organized.

"We're celebrating the old year and celebrating the new," she said.



Fireworks light up the sky at SnowGlobe.

GRIFFIN ROGERS / TAHOE DAILY TRIBUNE

32 arrested during New Year's celebrations

Tribune staff report

Thirty-two people were arrested during New Year's Eve celebrations on the South Shore.

Twenty-four people were arrested during New Year's Eve celebrations at Stateline,

Douglas County Sheriff's Office reported Wednesday morning.

The crowd was an average size and Highway 50 was closed to vehicle traffic from 11:40 p.m. to 12:20 a.m. so revelers could flow into the roadway as they celebrated the new year, a press release stated. On the Nevada side, the

roadway was reopened to traffic at 1 a.m. after the crowd moved out of the street.

The arrests took place at the casino corridor throughout the evening. Charges included assault, domestic battery, disorderly conduct,

ARRESTS, 2

Pedestrian struck and killed on Highway 50

Tribune staff report

An unidentified man was pronounced dead at the scene of a traffic collision on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe after he was struck by an SUV around 8 p.m. on New Year's Day.

Police officers and medics arrived to find the victim lying in the driveway of the Town and Country shopping center, located at 2660 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

The man appeared to be in his 40s and was wearing dark clothing. He had no identification

STRUCK, 2

Program removes hazardous lead from older homes

By Tom Lotshaw
tlotshaw@tahoedailytribune.com

Margaret Molina was skeptical about calling the Lead Safe Tahoe program and asking for an inspection of her mother's cabin on Sierra Boulevard for hazardous lead paint.

"I kept hearing all these negative people talking about all the catches," Molina said.

She decided to check it out anyway. An inspection crew found potentially hazardous lead paint in the cabin. The city then offered to get it taken care of for free. The work was done over two weeks in November.


"They stripped all the old paint off the house, put a sealer on it and painted it, and took off the old front porch," Molina said.

"I hear people saying that there's some catch," Molina said about the program. "I just tell them no, there are no catches. If they find it, this is something they will do if you qualify."

The cabin is one of 486 homes and apartments the program has tested for lead paint in South Lake

LEAD, 4


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LEAD
 From page 1

Tahoe. Of those, 178 have tested positive for lead paint and 172 have had the paint removed or mitigated by qualified local contractors who have partnered with the city on the program. Six more are under construction.

Homes must be permanent residences and built before 1978, the last year lead-based paint and other materials were used. Homes also must have children ages 6 or under in them for some portion of the year.

Lead testing and removal are free for income-eligible people. Income limits range from \$38,550 for a single-person household to \$55,050 for a family of four. Owners of larger multi-family properties with 26 or more units must pay for a portion of the cost of work that's done.

"We've worked on single-family homes, duplexes, larger multi-family properties," said Anita Good, the outreach coordinator for Lead Safe Tahoe.

"It might be as little as some lead paint on window trim inside, or siding they can encase on the outside of the house. If it's in the wood

of doors or windows, we can replace those with new double panes. Sometimes it's found in the carpet or the soil outside."

Lead paint can chip or turn into dust and become a hazard as it deteriorates. Exposure to the neurotoxic metal is linked to a number of health and developmental problems.

Wherever hazardous lead paint is found in or around a home, contractors will come and remove it. Properties that go through the program get an official certificate that they are lead-free.

About \$3.5 million in grant funding from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has made the program possible in South Lake Tahoe. A first grant was awarded in 2009 and a second grant was awarded in 2011.

If lead paint is found in a home, grant money can also be used to address other health and safety issues such as radon or mold and to fix substandard housing issues such as broken windows, Good said.

"If we can give kids a healthy place to live and physically improve the community, all the better," she said.

The program has also

For more information

Call Lead Safe Tahoe at 530-542-6011 or visit www.cityofslt.us/leadsafetahoe

trained about 200 local employees in safe work practices for homes with lead paint.

There's no word yet on whether more federal funding will be available for the program, so South Lake Tahoe has until November to spend its remaining grant money. Good said the city is trying to do just that.

"We'd love to get homes tested and identified and in the queue so we are ready to go in the spring," she said.

The program sometimes struggles with skepticism and concerns that there's some catch or it isn't really free for the eligible people who participate.

"We have to do a lot of convincing," Good said.

Almost 500 homes in the city have been tested for lead paint, but many more potentially eligible properties have not. More than 9,400 homes and multi-family properties in South Lake Tahoe were built before the 1978 cutoff date, Good said.

"On one hand, we feel good we tested a lot of

homes. On the other hand, there are still a lot of them out there we'd love to try to address," she said.

Molina said she encourages anyone thinking about the program to just do it.

"There's no paying it back, there's no catches. It was like, wow, they're just going to put this much money into the place. We could have never afforded to do any of this on our own," she said, adding that it made her mother's cabin a safer place for her children to visit.

"I would recommend it to anybody. It doesn't hurt to have a place checked out to see if there's lead and go from there."

John Simmonds echoed that belief. One of his two cabins on Aspen Avenue went through the program in November. The cabin had its exterior repainted and all of its windows replaced.

"In my opinion, you're crazy not to do it just to get the piece of mind to find out if you have lead in your paint," Simmonds said.

"If they test and don't find lead, there's no cost, no nothing, and you have that piece of mind," he said. "If they do find lead, they're offering to repair the situation for free."

Peeling paint problems?



TOXIC LEAD-BASED PAINT COULD BE THE CULPRIT.

Lead Safe Tahoe offers FREE testing, painting, and construction services.

LEAD SAFE TAHOE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- HOME OR APARTMENT WAS BUILT BEFORE 1978 AND IS THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE OF ELIGIBLE OCCUPANTS
- PROPERTY IS LOCATED WITHIN SOUTH LAKE TAHOE CITY LIMITS
- CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 LIVE IN OR VISIT THE HOME 60+ HOURS PER YEAR
- COMBINED HOUSEHOLD INCOME IS AT OR BELOW HUD-DETERMINED LEVELS

LEAD DUST HURTS KIDS

If your home or apartment was built before 1978, potentially dangerous lead-based paint is likely on the walls, doors, windows and sills.

Peeling and chipping lead paint hurts more than just your property values.

It has serious health risks — especially for children under age 6.

The city of South Lake Tahoe has received grant funding which can cover the cost to test and control lead-based paint and other health and safety risks.

Services are FREE for home owners and renters.

Eligibility requirements and funding limits apply.

530.542.6011



WWW.CITYOFSLT.US/LEADSAFETAHOE

You're Invited to Visit These
OPEN HOUSES THIS WEEKEND



- 970 Granite Mountain
Sat. 12 pm - 2 pm
- 1260 Tamarack Dr.
Sat. 1 pm - 4 pm
- 1138 Golden Bear
Sat. 10 am - 12 pm
- 400 Ward Way
Sat. 12 pm - 2 pm

Pick up a copy of tomorrow's Tahoe Daily Tribune for a full map of South Lake Tahoe with these open house locations.

neighborhood
 featured
Christmas Valley

Located just outside the South Lake Tahoe City limits, in the unincorporated area of El Dorado County, is the appropriately named community of Christmas Valley. This secluded neighborhood lies at the foot of Echo Summit on the west and Luther Pass to the south. This unique area boasts mountain living at its finest as many of the homes in the neighborhood back to mountains and miles of natural forest.

The Upper Truckee River, Lake Tahoe's main artery, flows through the center of the valley where river front homes create a unique living experience. Summer activities include wildlife viewing, hiking, fishing, and mountain biking. You can access marked, maintained trails to High Meadow, Dardanelles Lakes, Round Lake, and many others from the end of South Upper Truckee Road.

During winter, cross country skiing and snowshoeing will afford crystal clear mountain views and world class skiing is just minutes away. The snow fall in this area is abundant and is preserved in the shadow of Echo Summit.

For the discriminating buyer, a variety of mid-range to high end priced homes can be found in Christmas Valley. Whether you are looking for a primary residence, vacation rental, or that mountain family getaway, live where Santa would go to spend Christmas in Tahoe and experience the magic in Christmas Valley.

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Tom Lotshaw tlotshaw@tahoedailytribune.com

January 2, 2014

Program removes hazardous lead from older homes

For more information

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