

Proposed Squaw Valley high-rises spur controversy

By Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee

A proposed expansion of Squaw Valley USA would create “significant and unavoidable” effects on scenery, noise and traffic at the mountain resort near Lake Tahoe, according to a draft Placer County report released last month.

In a project expected to take 25 years to complete, Colorado-based KSL Capital Partners LLC plans to build hotels, condos, an indoor recreational facility, shops and more at the ski resort that hosted the 1960 Winter Olympics. The expansion would add 10, 100-foot-tall buildings to the Sierra Nevada skyline.

Environmentalists say the draft environmental impact report shows the project should not be built as proposed.

Read the whole story

Chautauqua performance to feature George Whittell

Chautauqua performer Steve Hale will present “George Whittell Jr., Playboy Millionaire Who Built the Thunderbird Lodge” at the Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park on June 10 at 6:30 pm.

The event is open to the public and free to attend.

George Whittell Jr. lived off the interest generated by the

millions he inherited from his parents. His enormous assets allowed him to purchase most of the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe where he built the Thunderbird Lodge in the 1930s. The house was designed by prominent Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps. This included a 600-foot tunnel connected to a boat house to berth the Thunderbird, his 55-foot mahogany yacht.

Hale has been presenting historical figures from the Lake Tahoe region for almost two decades.

The park is located at 1450 Highway 88, one-quarter mile north of the Carson Valley Veterinary Hospital. For more information, call 775.783.9417.

EDSO regularly patrolling Rubicon Trail

The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office Off-Highway Vehicle team's season on the Rubicon Trail has already been busy.

During Memorial Day weekend 510 people and 204 vehicles were contacted. Deputies provided assistance to four people, two of those were vehicle rollovers. Ten warnings were issued, but no citations or arrests.

The team consists of a sergeant, one full-time seasonal deputy and eight part-time deputies. The team is funded in part by California Off-Highway Motor Vehicular Recreation Commission, California Green Sticker Fees, and SMUD. They patrol in two, marked, Jeep Wranglers with specialized equipment to deal with medical emergencies, vehicle rollovers, rugged off-road travel, and overnight stays on the trails. This is year 15 of

the program.

Deputies Tony Broadfoot and Jeremiah Hamon received advanced medical training and recently attended Wilderness First Responder School specifically designed to prepare them to provide aid during emergencies in remote areas.

The mission of the OHV team is to provide education to the public, maintain the family friendly atmosphere and when necessary, use enforcement to support that education. The deputies will spend their time encouraging trail users to use the trail safely and in such a way that the trail is protected from environmental damage. Alcohol violations will be strictly enforced.

All vehicles on the Rubicon Trail need to be currently registered or “green stickered”(designated as off-highway).

Smoking cessation classes on South Shore

Barton University is offering low cost smoking cessation programs.

Freedom from Smoking is the American Lung Association’s program that provides support and techniques to help people quit the habit for good. Classes are:

Session 1: Starts June 24 (Quit day: July 17)

Session 2: Starts Aug. 19 (Quit day: Sept. 11)

Session 3: Starts Oct. 7 (Quit day: Oct. 30).

Classes take place for seven consecutive Wednesdays with an additional “quit day” session half way through the program.

Each session is from 5-6:30pm. Cost is \$30.

Register with Krista Carson at 530.600.1958 or emailkcarson@bartonhealth.org.

Then and now: Hwy. 50 near Lakeland area



Highway 50 in the 1930s was much more of a rural route.
Photo/Stephen Gennerich collection

If you stood on Highway 50 in 1930 near today's Lakeland Village on the South Shore, the photo above would have been your view toward Mount Tallac.



Civilization had taken hold by the 1950s. Photo/Stephen Gennerich collection

Slowly the area began developing in the early 1950s with more poles and wires, more facilities and services. Harrah's and Heavenly Valley both opened in 1955. The late 1950s brought hurried development in anticipation of the 1960 Winter Olympics. Dozens of motels, gas stations, eateries and tourist attractions sprung up.



Highway 50 is very much an urban area today. Photo/Bill Kingman

Today at the same location the view is of more cars, more lanes, and more development, but now the poles and overhead wires are gone.

– *Bill Kingman*

Sidewinder puts a twist into Tahoe cycling



Brenda Stewart makes her way through a turn on Sidewinder. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

Be wary when a friend says it's a tiny hill.

At least that's how I remember Brenda describing the ascent up to the Corral Trailhead. The 2.2-mile uphill slog on a poorly paved road from the lower parking lot would have been a lot less painful had we not already ridden several miles to get to this point.

Oh, but the reward, well that was worth having to swallow my pride to push the bike a short ways. This is as vehicles,

including shuttles from South Shore Bikes, passed us. While I did take the shuttle back to my vehicle at Spooner when I did the Flume Trail years ago, the shuttle to Corral almost seems like cheating.

Our destination was Sidewinder – formally known as Sierra Sidewinder.



Shocks – or a whole new bike – would make some Tahoe trails more pleasurable.

The banked turns had me wishing it hadn't been three years since I took a mountain biking lesson at Northstar. I was trying to remember what I had been taught – but didn't necessarily learn – about how the bike is supposed to lean one way and I'm supposed to do something else.

I was just happy this was a weekday with few people on the trail. My brakes were getting a lot of action. So were my facial muscles – switching between smiling and serious concentration.

Many mountain bike trails have the green-blue-black designations like ski runs. Sidewinder is 1.25 miles of blue

terrain.

It's mostly about banked switchbacks. But there was one spot where Brenda and I both walked down a granite slab.

From there we did a gentle ride over the tabletops on Lower Corral. This is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of green. I've seen video of people doing some spectacular riding on all sections of Corral. I don't aspire to do that, but it will be fun to get more confident riding this trail.

(Upper Corral Trail is 1 mile and is a black diamond.)



Mount Tallac from
Lower Corral Trail.

The U.S. Forest Service – whose property these trails are on – and TAMBA – the area's preeminent mountain biking group – deserve all the props they get for having created a network of trails that just about anyone could get down.

I'm not a serious mountain biker by any means. In fact, my Trek is more than 20 years old. It doesn't have any suspension. This either makes me so incredibly hardcore, super cheap, plain stupid or someone whose mountain biking escapades might just be evolving to the point where she needs to do some shopping for new wheels.

It was at the end of Lower Corral where my whole body was shaking and I started thinking having front or rear shocks, or both, would have been welcome. All I was thankful for was that I already had a massage booked for later in the week.

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Getting there:

From South Lake Tahoe, take Highway 50 west toward Meyers.

Turn left on Elks Club Drive.

Turn right on Pioneer Trail.

Turn left on Oneidas Street.

There is a lower parking lot. If the gates are open, there is parking farther up at the entrance to the trailhead.

Opinion: Our water-guzzling food factory

By Nicholas Kristof, New York Times

Let's start with a quiz.

Which consumes the most water?

- A) a 10-minute shower.
- B) a handful of 10 almonds.
- C) a quarterpound hamburger patty.
- D) a washing machine load.

The answer? By far, it's the hamburger patty. The shower might use 25 gallons. The almonds take up almost a gallon each, or close to 10 gallons for the handful. The washing machine uses about 35 gallons per load. And that beef patty, around 450 gallons.

The drought in California hit home when I was backpacking with my daughter there recently on the Pacific Crest Trail, and the first eight creeks or springs we reached were all dry.

Read the whole story

Truckee seminar focuses on water conservation

The Truckee Donner Public Utility District is hosting a garden party and seminar June 23 from 5-7pm in the Patricia S. Sutton Conservation Garden.

This event includes displays and presentations by local experts on water-wise landscaping and gardening. Seminar presentations will occur at 5:45pm and 6:30pm on plant selection, irrigation and landscape design.

People will be taught about water conservation for their garden, erosion and storm water control, plant selection, irrigation, landscape materials and the many ways that residents can conserve water in and outside their homes.

Local exhibitors include TDPUD, Truckee, Truckee River Watershed Council, Pat Sutton Memorial Scholarship Fund, Rock & Rose Nursery, Mountain Hardware and others.

Free water-saving devices will be available to TDPUD water

customers.

Federal committee to discuss Tahoe issues

The Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet from 9am-noon June 22 at the U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Supervisor's office in South Lake Tahoe.

LTFAC will address issues related to federal activities at Lake Tahoe. Items on the agenda include an overview of committee history, review of committee charter, update on status of Lake Tahoe Restoration Act and Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and discussion of Committee's future strategy.

Members of the public interested in finding out more about the LTFAC are welcome to attend the meeting.

LTFAC consists of 20 members representing an array of constituencies.

Utility company provides scholarships to students

Liberty Utilities has awarded scholarships to area high school and community college students.

The recipients are:

South Tahoe High School – Priya Patel

Loyalton High School – Cheyenne Little

Coleville High School – Joel Gomez

North Tahoe High School – Johanna Gur

Portola High School – Saul Juarez

Truckee High School – Aaron Kuyper

Lake Tahoe Community College – Antonio Benitez.

Each high school senior will receive a \$500, and the community college student will receive \$750. A Liberty Utility representative attends each of the school's awards ceremony to congratulate the student and present the check.