

Cold, wet weather headed for Tahoe

Expect the temperatures to drop and the snow to fall in Lake Tahoe on April 24.

A cold front will descend upon the basin Friday night and into Saturday. Six to 12 inches is expected at 6,500 feet, with several inches possible down to 5,000 feet, according to the National Weather Service in Reno. Precipitation will start as rain and then change to snow.

A lake wind advisory is in effect for Friday from 11am-8pm. Waves could be 2 to 3 feet.

By Sunday it's supposed to be in the mid-50s, however overnight lows will be in the 20s through Monday.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Letter: Thanks to tourism forum participants

To the community,

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, El Dorado County, South Tahoe Alliance of Resorts and Sacramento International Airport would like to thank all of the attendees of Tuesday's Tourism Forum at Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel. Over 100 people attended to get more

information on upcoming recreation projects, hear lessons learned from Park City courtesy of keynote speakers Ken Fisher and Jonathan Weidenhamer, and to learn about the opportunities businesses may seize to target and accommodate the recreation guest.

Thank you to Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel for hosting. A special thanks to participating exhibitors Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association, Douglas County, United States Forest Service, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Tahoe Sport Fishing Co., Amgen Tour of California, and the city of South Lake Tahoe.

Materials from the Tourism Forum, including tips for leveraging special event opportunities and a downloadable PDF of recreation information for frontline staff, can be found online.

Shannon Earley, chamber communications coordinator

TRPA approves Liberty electrical line upgrade

By Kathryn Reed

KINGS BEACH – Construction on a multi-million electrical upgrade of Liberty Utilities lines in the North Shore-Truckee area is expected to start this summer.

There was a brief tense moment Thursday morning at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board when it looked like the project was not going to be approved.

Board member Clem Shute said there was no way he could approve

the environmental documents that included phase three of the project because there was too much ambiguity in the language. Liberty reluctantly agreed issues regarding that phase could be handled at a later date.

With that compromise, the board unanimously approved the environmental document that affected phases one and two.

The U.S. Forest Service was waiting for the TRPA decision before the final record of decision was signed. That will be the last hurdle before the project can break ground.

"The poles and wiring are on order," Kathy Carter, spokeswoman for the utility company, told *Lake Tahoe News*. The request for proposal is out and a contract will soon be signed with a contractor. Phase one is estimated to cost \$18 million.

Three people spoke at the April 23 meeting at the North Tahoe Events Center in Kings Beach. All live near where some of the construction will take place. Two of the three seemed to recently become aware of the project even though it has been discussed for four years and there have been multiple public meetings.

Neal Carney, representing the North Tahoe Citizens Action Alliance, questioned why undergrounding was not occurring – especially near neighborhoods.

Mike Smart, president of Liberty Utilities, told the board, "The thing with undergrounding is that it is more reliable, but it's about eight times as expensive."

He also explained how having a high voltage facility underground is problematic in snow country because it can be hard to get to the infrastructure needing repairs. Plus, it takes specialized crews to work on that type of equipment; crews Liberty does not employ.

Smart also acknowledged that all ratepayers will be paying for

the improvements. Liberty will go the California Public Utility Commission upon completion of the project and ask for a rate increase. Liberty provides power to the entire California side of the Lake Tahoe Basin, Truckee, Alpine County and other places in Northern California.

The first phase is designed to have enough infrastructure in place that it could be used this winter even if all the work is not finished, according to Carter.

"This is for winter peaking issues," Smart explained. Snowmaking at ski resorts and the influx of people to the basin make winter demand higher than any other time of year.

The last time Liberty hit its peak was the evening of Dec. 30, 2012. Smart said had more resorts being making snow or if the proposed gondola linking Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows were a reality, the peak would have been hit this past winter.

At peak times the diesel generators at the Kings Beach substation kick in. It's also possible for the power to go out because the system is stressed.

According to Liberty, the 625 and 650 power lines are some of the oldest in California, built in 1971 and 1959, respectively.

Upgrading the 650 line that runs along Highway 267 from Truckee to Kings Beach and several substations will occur in phase one. Phase two is upgrading the Northstar and Kings Beach substations. That will begin based on when the demand triggers this to be done. Phase three involves the 625 power line along Highway 28 from Tahoe City to Kings Beach. The start date is also contingent upon loads. The CPUC must approve the initiation of phases two and three even though it has already signed off on the entire project.

When all the work is done the lines and substations will have been upgraded from 60 kilovolt to 120kV.

K's Kitchen: Hearty soup for a cold spring day

By Kathryn Reed

Just when I thought soup season was gone, the temps dropped. Oh, darn.

This concoction had me cooking with two ingredients I had never used before – parsnip and barley. I have to admit I didn't even know what a parsnip looked like. It resembles a carrot, but is wider and white. It is sweeter than a carrot and is a good source for fiber.

I have some left which I will probably use in a stir fry.

Like many soups, this one got better as the days went on. The barley and lentils give it an earthy flavor. The grains also make it hearty.

A small bowl of it was filling, whereas some soups I want a large bowl to be satisfied.

The ease of making this soup is also great.



Barley-Lentil Soup

2 tsp canola oil

1 C leek, sliced
3 C vegetable broth
1 C water
1 bottle beer
1 C carrot, chopped
1 C celery, chopped
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C parsnip, chopped
 $\frac{1}{4}$ C fresh dill, chopped
 $\frac{1}{4}$ C uncooked pearl barley
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp black pepper
1 tsp fresh thyme
2 bay leaves
 $\frac{1}{2}$ C dried lentils
 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp garlic salt

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add leek to pan; sauté 2 minutes. Add broth, water and beer; bring to a boil. Add carrot and next 7 ingredients (through bay leaves); return to a boil.

Cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 15 minutes.

Stir in lentils; cover and cook 30 minutes. Discard bay leaves.

Either put $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups of mixture through blender or used emulsion blender on part of the concoction. Then add salt. Bring to boil, simmer for 10 minutes. Adjust seasoning as needed.

El Niño forming off California coast

By Kurtis Alexander, San Francisco Chronicle

El Niño has been a sore subject for Californians lately.

The event, which involves the warming of tropical waters in the Pacific and can hold the promise of rain for the West Coast, was predicted to take hold last fall – possibly in great force. That forecast fizzled, however, along with the hopes of many who believed, perhaps a bit too eagerly, that a powerful El Niño would break the California drought.

With federal forecasters again saying El Niño conditions are ripe for this fall, few on the West Coast are listening. In fact, many seem to be dismissive of any potential for an El Niño to help deliver a wet winter in 2015-16.

Read the whole story

Half of Nev. homes in foreclosure also underwater



Nevada has been a leader in
foreclosures for years.
Photo/Brendel

By Eli Segall, Las Vegas Sun

Being underwater on your mortgage doesn't necessarily mean you'll lose your house to lenders.

But more often than not, it does in Nevada, a new report shows.

An estimated 55 percent of properties statewide in some stage of the foreclosure process also were heavily underwater in the first quarter, according to RealtyTrac.

That's the highest rate in the country and far above the national average of 35 percent.

Read the whole story

LTWC breaks ground on new

facility



Mayor Hal Cole, center, surveys the work that started April 10 at Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care's new home. Photo/Tom Millham

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency on April 23 approved the permit for the new home of the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care facility.

Preliminary work like cleaning up the lot started earlier this month on the new home for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care.

Turner and Associates employees surveyed the property and placed stakes showing the outlines of the buildings and parking areas as well as the centerlines of the roadways. The general contractor of the project and South Lake Tahoe Mayor Hal Cole were on hand.

Then, about an hour later, Ed Cook Tree Service showed up to begin removing the trees that were on the ground after decades of being blown over from wind, snow, rain and fire.

The new location is for the nonprofit organization which has a mission to raise, rehabilitate and release orphaned and injured wild birds and animals in and around the Lake Tahoe Basin.

After 37 years of running the organization out of our home, Cheryl, my wife, and I will soon be located on the corner of Al Tahoe Boulevard and Pioneer Trail on 27 acres. The new location will have more cages, larger cages and be state-of-the-art. It will give the organization more room to care for more wildlife for many years to come.

– Tom Millham, Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care treasurer

Meyers Area Plan to be discussed at open house

There will be an open house May 6 regarding the Meyers Area Plan.

El Dorado County Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, who is Meyers' voice because Supervisor Sue Novasel has a conflict, will talk about the plan before the break-out sessions begin.

The board plans to have a workshop in June or July to discuss initiating environmental review of the draft plan.

The meeting will be from 5:30-7:30pm at the magnet school in Meyers.

For more info, email meyersareaplan@edcgov.us.

Prep babysitter in case of emergency

When you leave your children in the care of a babysitter, take time to cue the babysitter to your family's escape plan. Discuss the floor plan of your house, and leave the phone number where you can be reached. Explain the family fire safety plans to your babysitter.

If the smoke detector sounds, nobody should try to find the fire, much less try to put it out.

Make it clear that your only concern is that everyone gets out of the house quickly and safely.

The SLTFD urges you to spend time preparing your family to be fire safe this year.

– Sallie Ross-Filgo, South Lake Tahoe Fire Department

Convicted sex offender wanted in El Dorado County



Jaime Lynn
Olson

By News 10

Officials are looking for a parolee at large who is described as a violent sex offender.

The El Dorado County District Attorney's Office said Jaime Lynn Olson, 36, violated her parole and failed to register as a sex offender.

Investigator Dave Stevenson said Olson frequents South Lake Tahoe, where the crime originally happened, the West Slope of El Dorado County and is possibly living in the Sacramento area.

Read the whole story