

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Cozy

Cozy is 2 years old. She was left behind when her owners moved.

She loves to cuddle and get cozy on laps.

Her adoption fee and fees for all other adult cats at the shelter right now have been partially paid by a kind sponsor. 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.

– Susan B.

Wind makes scenic Echo Lake a challenge



Tom and Pam kayak toward the channel at at Echo Lakes.
Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

Paddling is always a good upper body workout. Paddling against the wind with white caps is definitely going to require some therapy afterward. Such was the case for the four of us on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend.

Wind wasn't an issue when we left the house, so it came as a surprise when we got to Echo Lake. But we didn't let it deter us.

While it was near impossible to find a parking spot, all those vehicles must have belonged to either hikers/backpackers or

cabin owners, because the lake was relatively boat free. The shuttle boat was the main vessel on Lower Echo Lake.



The channel separating the lakes.

Before we even got on the water our canoe and kayaks had to be inspected. Clean-drain-dry is the motto here and throughout the region so aquatic invasive species are not transported from one body of water to the other. Echo Lakes doesn't want the two types of milfoil or the Asian clams that Lake Tahoe has.

It was my intent to take Pam and Tom to both lakes, but the wind changed those plans. It was so gusty at times that we weren't making forward progress. AJ didn't seem fazed though as she lay in the middle of the canoe while Sue and I dug in as hard as we could when the gusts came up.

Still, we took plenty of opportunities to enjoy the towering granite to one side, and the fir and pine-lined shore on the other. Much of the shoreline is rugged, so there are limited opportunities to stop.

Near the end of the lake and on both sides are modest summer cabins on U.S. Forest Service land. They are only accessible by boat.



Sue at the helm of the canoe.

At the channel leading from Lower to Upper Echo Lake we paused for snacks and a chance to rest and stretch our legs. An expansive granite beach of sorts is at the entrance, which made for an ideal break area.

Upper Lake is the smaller of the two. A few islands are on it. No waterskiing is allowed there, so it can be more peaceful.

We meandered through the shallow, windy connector to the upper lake just to say we did it. We were all too tired to do anything more than paddle back to the boat ramp.

We thought we would have a tailwind, but instead we were being pushed into the center of the lake. It was a challenge in both directions. Fortunately, the store was open so we could reward ourselves with ice cream. Adult beverages in the hot tub were next. By that time the paddle didn't seem so bad.



AJ and Britton had it easy.

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Getting there: From South Lake Tahoe, take Highway 50 west. A short distance after cresting Echo Summit, turn right on Johnson Pass Road. Stay to the left. The narrow road leads to the water.

Notes:

- The store is open Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- During that time it costs \$5 to launch a human powered vessel.

Opinion: Calif. water bond makes sense

By John Garamendi

Everyone agrees that California's aging water infrastructure

is insufficient for our present and future needs.

When the Legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown negotiated the final language of the water bond, we monitored their work with trepidation. Had the proposed \$25 billion twin-tunnels boondoggle been included, it would have divided our state and doomed the bond.



John Garamendi

Fortunately, our state lawmakers pursued a more unifying approach and put Proposition 1 on the November ballot. It's a \$7.5 billion water bond that makes most of the right investments while remaining neutral on the twin tunnels.

The twin tunnels – three times the price tag of the entire bond – don't create 1 gallon of new water and, if ever built, would create the mechanism that could destroy the largest and most important estuary on the West Coast.

Fortunately, the water bond does create new water and includes many of the priorities found in my Water Plan for All California, which is focused on six priorities:

- New surface and underground water storage infrastructure;
- Water conservation;
- Water recycling;
- Levee improvements and habitat restoration;
- A science-driven process; and
- The protection of existing water rights.

California needs to develop surface and underground water storage systems. The off-stream Sites Reservoir, north of Sacramento in Colusa County, is a key cornerstone for this. It has the capacity to store 1.9 million acre-feet of water and provide up to 700,000 acre-feet of water for use each year. That's why Rep. Doug LaMalfa, R-Calif., and I have introduced legislation that would help Sites clear federal hurdles.

Sites is just the beginning. Los Vaqueros reservoir in Contra Costa County should be expanded. The San Luis dam should be repaired and expanded. New reservoirs could be built at Los Banos Grandes and other off-stream sites throughout the Central Valley.

The over-drafting of the critical underground aquifers of the Central Valley must stop. Any water plan must include infrastructure and regulations necessary to protect and replenish these critical water reservoirs.

The quickest and cheapest new water source is conservation. Robust conservation efforts in urban water use could save 1 million acre-feet of water each year. California's \$40 billion agricultural economy needs a sustainable water supply. The technology already exists to expand on existing water conservation practices and conserve an additional 3 million acre-feet of water each year. This new water would play a crucial role in meeting the needs of our valuable agricultural industry.

Every year, 3.5 million acre-feet of treated water is dumped into the Pacific Ocean by cities in the Los Angeles Basin. How foolish to pump water 500 miles, clean it, use it once, clean it to a higher standard than the day it arrives, and then dump it into the ocean. One million acre-feet could be recycled and stored in the underground aquifers in Southern California. Similar projects must be done in Northern California. Desalination of ocean water also can add to our supplies.

With adequate investment and implementation, urban and agriculture conservation, recycling programs and new storage could create approximately 5.7 million acre-feet of new water to use each year.

Any plan that doesn't include levee improvements in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a plan awaiting disaster. Even the twin-tunnels plan relies on the delta levees to channel water to the great pumps at Tracy. Fortunately, the water bond, Prop. 1, provides money to maintain the critical levees protecting delta communities, agricultural land and water supply.

Providing a foundation for these projects is the protection of existing water rights. If we are going to build any project, these rights must be honored.

Taken together, a Water Plan for All California could create up to 5.7 million acre-feet at about half the cost of the twin-tunnels boondoggle. We would avoid the gridlock of a fruitless, time-consuming water war and meet the challenge of supplying our entire state with the water it needs.

Prop. 1 isn't the complete solution, but it's a necessary and important first step. We should vote for Prop. 1 and proceed with a Water Plan for All California

John Garamendi, D-Walnut Grove, represents the 3rd Congressional District.

Sleep impacts worker

reliability

By Tara Parker-Pope, New York Times

The most reliable workers are those who get seven to eight hours of sleep each night, a new study shows.

Researchers from Finland analyzed the sleep habits and missed work days among 3,760 men and women over about seven years. The workers ranged in age from 30 to 64 at the start of the study.

Read the whole story

Placer County to collected old prescription drugs

Placer County is co-sponsoring free medication take-back events in and around the county on Sept. 27 from 10am-2pm at 10 locations in the western area of the county, and one at Lake Tahoe.

The Tahoe-area event will be at the former fire station above Commons Beach, 300 North Lake Blvd., Tahoe City from 9am-1pm.

No sharps will be accepted and pills need to be emptied from bottles into plastic bag and sealed at all locations. Liquids should be left in their original bottles.

LTCC part of online education pilot program

Lake Tahoe Community College is one of eight colleges selected to be part of a pilot program involving online education.

California Community Colleges' Online Education Initiative (OEI) begins this fall and goes through spring 2016.

The goal is to increase student access to online courses throughout California and define the future of online education in California's Community College system.

California's community colleges have offered online courses for more than 20 years. Last school year, 620,000 students took more than 41,000 online courses. However, there has been little coordination between the state's 72 community college districts in terms of technology platforms or student and faculty support. Retention rates in online courses remain low, as they do nationwide. The hope is that bringing extra technology resources and centralization to California's community college system will improve online student success rates.

Associate degree for transfer online courses that will be included in the initial phases of the pilot program include: introductory courses in anthropology, criminal justice, communications, micro and macroeconomics, human geography, psychology, and others.

The OEI will also look at developing a common course management system. There are upward of 10 systems in use now. The OEI intends to create one system to be used by all community colleges.

Other colleges in the pilot program are: Mt. San Jacinto College, Butte College, Coastline Community College, Foothill

College, Shasta College, Fresno City College, and Ventura College.

Construction related fire at Stateline residence

A fire on Tramway Drive in Stateline on Saturday did not reach the interior of the structure.

The two-alarm fire Sept. 13 at 6:42pm burned the deck of the residence and the siding.

“(The cause) is under investigation related to construction activity,” Tahoe Douglas Fire Marshal Eric Guevin told *Lake Tahoe News*.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Fire burning east of Pollock Pines

Updated 5:15pm:

Smoke drifting into Truckee and that is streaming over the ridge on the South Shore is from the King Fire burning out of

control near Pollock Pines.

“Heavy fuels are burning and timber,” Terri Mizuhara, spokeswoman for CalFire, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “It’s traveling east, northeast with a rapid rate of spread.”

It is burning away from the town of Pollock Pines.

It was reported Sept. 13 at 4:32pm. Less than 24 hours later about 2,000 acres near Mountain Road had been consumed; with zero percent containment. This is a steep canyon area. Winds have been brisk.

Evacuations have been ordered for 188 residences, with more than 400 on voluntary evacuation. Pollock Pine Community Center was the evacuation center, with 120 people having shown up. However, it lost power. Red Cross has established an evacuation center at Sierra Ridge Middle School, 2700 Amber Trail, Pollock Pines.

Power is out in the area to about 4,000 PG&E customers.

Air and ground resources are attacking the fire. A strike team from Lake Valley Fire Protection District has been sent to the fire.

Highway 50 is open in both directions, but there are road closures closer to the fire.

At this time the cause is under investigation.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Public agencies working to reduce fire risk



Public lands in Meyers to be cleaned up. Photo/Provided

The U.S. Forest Service is giving Lake Valley Fire Protection District a \$26,000 grant to reduce wildfire risk in Meyers.

Lake Valley personnel will clear brush and hazard trees on a 6.5 acres owned by California Tahoe Conservancy across from the Tahoe Pines Campground.

The U.S. Forest Service Non-Federal Lands Grants support fuel reduction work on parcels adjacent to Forest Service land that has been or will be treated. The same contractor, CTL Forest Management, will be working on the Conservancy property and adjacent Forest Service land.

The project, which should be finished this month, will remove many of the lodgepole pines felled by a prior flood. CTL Forest Management will thin overgrown trees on the adjacent Forest Service properties as part of the South Shore Fuel Reduction and Healthy Forest Restoration project.

Tesla deal prompts economic benefits debate

By Matthew L. Wald, New York Times

When Nevada lured Tesla Motors to the Reno area to build a giant battery factory, a triumphant governor, Brian Sandoval, proclaimed that every dollar his state was spending in tax incentives and other subsidies would yield \$80 in economic activity.

But experts in industrial development say that his estimate is not so clear-cut. The calculation, they say, relies on two big assumptions: that the factory, which is to be built on a scale never tried before for a battery plant and is to employ 6,500 people, will achieve the radical cost savings that Tesla envisions, and that all the business it spurs will go to local companies. And even then, not all of the \$80 would reach governments; most of it, in fact, would go to the private sector.

A crucial issue is that whenever a state offers an incentive for a company to build a factory, the economic stimulus is rarely concentrated in the surrounding area. Building and equipping the battery factory, for example, will cost about \$5 billion, and while some of that money will have to be spent in Nevada, many of the equipment purchases, for example, cannot be.

“Are there any factories in Nevada that make the equipment to manufacture lithium-ion batteries?” said Greg LeRoy, the executive director of Good Jobs First, a nonprofit watchdog group in Washington that generally opposes such state incentives. “I don’t think you get to count that as a Nevada impact.”

That logic did not carry the day in Carson City. Late

Thursday, the Nevada Legislature, in a special session, approved a \$1.3 billion package of incentives, which Governor Sandoval immediately signed into law. He thanked the Legislature for its comprehensive review, in a session that he had called 48 hours earlier.

The package was more than twice as large as the \$500 million that Elon Musk, Tesla's chief executive, had said a month earlier that he was seeking. But Sandoval stressed that it would provide a lift for a state that has not recovered from the recession, and increase its gross domestic product by 4 percent.

Read the whole story