

USFS expands its land holdings in Tahoe



U.S. Forest Service buys
land on Tahoe Mountain.
Photo/Provided

The U.S. Forest Service, the largest land owner in the Lake Tahoe Basin, has added two 3.13 acre lots on Tahoe Mountain to its ledger.

Both are adjacent to existing USFS parcels on the South Shore. They are between Fallen Leaf Lake and Lake Tahoe, near the top of Tahoe Mountain, north of the Angora Heights subdivision.

One purchased for \$135,000 offers views of Lake Tahoe. The second, purchased for \$100,000, is adjacent to the new hiking and mountain biking trail that begins on Deveron Way. The money came from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

“These two purchases, along with two 2012 purchases in this area, will help restore and maintain a healthy watershed for Lake Tahoe, prevent conversion of forest to residential estate homes, and secure public access and open space, providing additional recreation opportunities in the Lake Tahoe Basin,” the USFS said in a press release.

Study: Fishing makes you a better person

By Abigail Wise, *Huffington Post*

Fishing is one of the most accessible outdoor sports. Nearly anyone, no matter age, income level or even fitness ability, can easily participate. And the sport is no longer the boys' club it was once thought of either. Of the 46 million Americans who fish today, over one third of them are women, according to a report released by the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation and the Outdoor Foundation. There's also growing age and ethnic diversity within the sport.

Whether they grew up heading out onto the lake every Sunday with Grandpa or are one of the millions trying the sport for the first time every year, those who fish have a direct connection to health and well-being. Here's how fishing can help you lead a happier, healthier life.

Fishing can keep you physically fit.

While fishing itself isn't necessarily going to get your heart rate up, many of the best fishing spots require a bit of paddling, biking or hiking to reach, all of which have proven cardiovascular benefits.

"You can make your fishing excursion as physical as you want," Janna Superstein, president of fly fishing company Superfly International Inc., tells the *Huffington Post*. She stresses, however, that you don't need to be incredibly active to participate. "Even just getting out there, you'll still get the benefits of the outdoors and maybe that's the beginning of a new fit, healthy lifestyle," she says.

Of course, just spending time outside is good for your body and your brain. The outdoors gives us plenty of vitamin D (but don't forget the SPF!), makes us happier and helps us age gracefully.

Read the whole story

Voters get a peek at S. Tahoe council candidates



Seven people are vying for three seats on the South Lake Tahoe City Council. Photo/LTN

By Kathryn Reed

MEYERS – Defining the role of a council member and the use of eminent domain were the only questions all seven South Lake Tahoe City Council candidates were asked to answer at a forum Wednesday night.

The event was a bit schizophrenic, as the questions were all over the place and not everyone had the opportunity to answer each one. It left several people gathered at Lake Tahoe Golf Course more confused about who to vote for and where the candidates stand on issues than when they arrived. This was in contrast to the South Lake Tahoe Lodging Association forum the following morning at which the same three questions were asked of the four candidates who showed up.

The last question asked Sept. 10 by moderator Evon Yakar was racist in nature. When candidate Bruce Grego asked Yakar if he was questioning whether race played a role in marketing, Yakar merely repeated the question. The question was: With 70 percent of Lake Tahoe's visitors being from California and many are non-white in California, should this change our approach to becoming a world-class recreation destination?

(Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and the *Tahoe Daily Tribune* were the sponsors.)

That particular question was asked of the four challengers. Grego said don't change things because of the color of people's skin. Matt Palacio, who works in sales for Sierra-at-Tahoe, said the resort has changed its approach by offering different food choices, and more lessons and helmets to cater to a population that is less comfortable with taking risks. Wendy David did not articulate her answer. Austin Sass said the city is not in the business of marketing, but added the ski and lodging industries are well versed in attracting an international clientele.

As for the responsibility of a council member: Sass said look to the future; Grego – listen to the community; Palacio – set direction; David – have a vision; Tom Davis – focus on the economy; Brooke Laine – do your homework; Angela Swanson – do the business of the city thoughtfully.

Regarding eminent domain:

- Swanson: Use it when all other options have been exhausted.
- Sass: Would use it, but hopes to never have to.
- Palacio: If it's for the greater good. (His family had land taken in the Bay Area to build a bridge.)
- Grego: Won't use it; believes it has been abused in South

Lake Tahoe.

- Laine: OK as a last resort.
- Davis: Would use it in extreme circumstances.
- David: Would not be her first choice.

When it came to the demeanor of the council Davis had to be asked the question twice because he avoided answering it the first time.

- Davis: He called this the most progressive council he's been on, that there will be differences, but at the end of the day you stand by the majority decision.
- David: Important to be professional and respectful at all times.
- Palacio: He sees political infighting and believes personal issues need to be resolved out of public view.

Here are some key comments from the candidates:

- Sass: Create a vision for the entire South Shore that people can embrace, know where the return on investment is going to come from, create town hall forums to engage the public, make the trails for biking and hiking easier to get to.
- David: Advocate of transparency, three-quarters of the town looks old, do something with the dilapidated hotels, plastic bag ban is the right thing.
- Palacio: Need better jobs to stop the brain drain of younger residents, raising the transient occupancy tax is short-sighted, supports Tahoe Prosperity Center.
- Grego: Night meetings could attract more input, need more flexibility with land use, never favored paid parking.

- Swanson: Government needs to get out of the way for businesses to succeed, Tahoe Valley Area Plan will be good for the Y, TRPA's Regional Plan is good.
- Laine: Disappointed more policies are not enforced, need community vision, old hotels should be allowed to be converted to different uses.
- Davis: Nothing wrong with representing minority opinion, wants free bus service, believes town is on the right course.

At the Sept. 11 lodging meeting, the candidates were all asked the same three questions. Only one of them was in the room at a time. All the candidates were invited.

Question: What is your position on raising the transient occupancy tax?

- Davis: The council can't just do it; it would have to go to the voters. He prefers raising average daily rate and occupancy. TOT accounts for just less than one-third of the city's revenues.
- Grego: Believes the motel industry is taxed enough. Believes the private sector supports the public sector enough.
- Swanson: Not appropriate at this time. Could see doing so in the future for recreation.
- Palacio: Against raising TOT. Says other locations like San Diego have a lower hotel tax rate.

Question: Are you in favor of the loop road?

- Davis: He prefers cars driving in front of a business instead of around it. Will not use eminent domain for it.
- Grego: Has never been in favor of it.

- Swanson: Wants the loop road. Believes it will bring profound changes for the positive to the area.
- Palacio: Supports it, citing how most tourist areas don't have a four-lane highway with a middle turn lane in the middle of town.

Question: What is your vision for the city to bring more tourists to town?

- Davis: Infrastructure, including complete streets, will attract new businesses.
 - Grego: Land use regulations need to be flexible so businesses will come to town. Government needs to get out of the way.
 - Swanson: City needs to invest in its own infrastructure.
 - Palacio: City needs to remove barriers, streamline regulations, and bring in recreation events in the shoulder season.
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Teen solo sailer to speak on North Shore

Laura Dekker will launch Squaw Valley Institute's Alchemist Speaker Series on Sept. 11.

Dekker, at 16, sailed her 40-foot Guppy around the world by herself. She will talk about her story of adventure, bravery, and leadership in the face of adversity.

Opening the presentation will be Logan LaPlante of SVI whose

recent Ted X talk has been viewed more than 6 million times.

For tickets (\$10 for kids, \$25 for adults) and more info, go online.

Two meetings to address draft recreation plan

There will be two meetings Sept. 25 regarding the South Lake Tahoe Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan.

The first is a joint meeting between the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Commission and the El Dorado County Parks and Recreation Commission. It is at 9am at Lake Tahoe Airport.

Commissioners will review and discuss recommendations contained in the draft master plan.

The second is an open house about the draft plan at 7pm it is at the recreation and swim complex on Rufus Allen Boulevard.

The event will be an opportunity for the public to share ideas on the recommendations within the plan and address public comments.

Rock climbing movie coming to

Incline

“Reel Rock 9, Valley Uprising” will be shown Oct. 2 at 7pm at High Altitude Fitness in Incline Village. The movie is about Yosemite’s rock climbing revolution.

It is free for members; \$12 for non-members at the door; \$10 tickets available for advanced purchase online. Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Access Fund and Truckee Donner Land Trust in a joint effort to purchase the Donner Summit Black Wall climbing area.

Mamasake Food Truck will be outside to serve dinner. Snacks and baked goods will also be available for purchase in the lobby. Beer and wine specials are available inside during the event.

Gas line struck at Hard Rock construction site



Crews had to be evacuated Sept. 11 from the Hard Rock construction site in

Stateline when a gas line
was struck. Photo/Eric
Guevin

Updated 12:49pm:

Construction crews at what will be Lake Tahoe Hard Rock Hotel hit a gas line this morning.

The Stateline site was evacuated Sept. 11 about 9am, according to Tahoe Douglas Fire Marshal Eric Guevin. He told *Lake Tahoe News* there were no injuries. Doors to the casino were closed off and the gas was subsequently shut off.

Traffic on Highway 50 in front of the casinos was being diverted around the loop road. The highway opened about an hour later.

The old Horizon hotel-casino is being gutted, remodeled and rebranded. Brothers Jon and David Park are putting \$60 million into the property.

However, this is the second construction incident in less than two weeks. On Aug. 29 a worker was trapped in a piece of equipment when the porte cochere came crashing down.

"The contractors and subcontractors followed all federal regulations, including the 'call before you dig' practice," Ellyn Morrill, spokeswoman for Hard Rock, said in a statement at 12:45pm. "Property officials worked with local authorities and the fire marshal to ensure the safety of all resort employees and surrounding businesses. "Southwest Gas is capping the line and all construction crews and employees have re-entered the building to continue with the renovation of the world-class gaming resort."

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Traffic issues expected with weekend marathon

The 19th Lake Tahoe Marathon is this weekend.

On Friday there will be traffic delays between Spring Creek Road and Inspiration Point on the South Shore between 6:50 and 7:30am for participants in the triple marathons and trifecta half marathons begin their first race of three. About 300 of runners will be pounding down the switch backs and heading for the bike path across from Spring Creek Road.

On Sunday, Highway 89 will be closed one-quarter mile south of Spring Creek Road starting at 6:30am and reopening at noon.

There is no road issues on Saturday in South Lake Tahoe.

Vail Resorts buys Park City Mountain Resort

By Christopher Smart, Salt Lake Tribune

Vail Resorts has purchased Park City Mountain Resort for \$182.5 million in cash, creating the country's largest ski resort covering more than 7,000 acres.

The Colorado resort announced the acquisition Thursday morning, adding that the sale resolves all litigation with Powdr Corp., Park City Mountain Resort's parent company.

Read the whole story

Earthquake strikes Tahoe Vista

A 3.5 temblor rattled the North Shore on Sept. 10.

Reports from the U.S. Geological Society show that people as far away as Yuba City and Lodi felt the earthquake Wednesday at 5:08pm. Most of the Lake Tahoe Basin had a little shaking going on, too, except for south of the epicenter.

The quake was centered less than 3 miles west of Tahoe Vista.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*