

Lifeguard training in South Lake Tahoe

South Lake Tahoe Recreation Department is offering two American Red Cross certified lifeguard training courses.

The courses are being taught by Liz Terzian. Participants will be trained and certified to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries, and sudden illness until emergency services take over.

Participants must be at least 16, be able to swim 300 yards continuously while demonstrating breathing control and rhythmic breathing, tread water for two minutes using legs only, and complete a timed event. The class includes 7 hours and 25 minutes of online learning and 20 hours of hands-on instruction.

To schedule the precourse swim session, call 252.917.1867. The deadline to **register** is Oct. 14. Classes start Oct. 21.

One word to describe the last water year? Dry



Even though most ski resorts in the Tahoe area have snow on Oct. 3 just like Squaw Valley, temps are supposed to be in the high 60s by the end of the week, with dry times returning.
Photo/Provided

By Matt Stevens, Los Angeles Times

There were high hopes going into water year 2016.

To hear some forecasters and scientists tell it, El Niño was coming to save California. With a little luck and a lot of rain, the drought might finally recede in its fifth year – or at least loosen its grip on the state.

The weather phenomenon did show up, fueling some storms in Northern California. But it fell far short of the lofty expectations.

On Friday, water year 2016 ended with a whimper.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Many El Dorado County wineries are offering Nevada residents deals Oct. 28-31 in celebration of Nevada Day.
 - Washoe County sheriff's employees will be wearing pink this month to bring awareness to breast cancer.
 - El Dorado County is having a workshop Oct. 10 from 6:30-8pm to discuss traffic level of service and the county's travel demand model. The meeting will be at the El Dorado Hills Fire Station 85, 1050 Wilson Blvd., El Dorado Hills.
 - Tahoe Forest Hospital in Truckee is having an open house Oct. 6, 4-7pm. People may tour facilities that were paid for through the Measure C general obligation bond.
 - Here is the Sierra roadwork schedule for the week from Caltrans.
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Letter: Supporting Exline for STPUD board

To the community,

South Tahoe Public Utility District has two seats up for election this season, and, even with presidents, senators and congressional representatives dominating the headlines, I may be most excited to vote Nick Exline for STPUD board. It feels good to know I will get to vote for a local candidate who sees and clearly articulates so many possibilities for positive change in our community.

Nick has been out and about at just about every public event to talk about STPUD policy and his platform – a main tenant of which is to work to keep water and sewer rates stable by encouraging the district to develop renewable energy sources for operations. Identifying means to avoid rate hikes is generally sound economic policy, but even more important, finding ways to avoid fossil fuel as an energy choice should be a key task of every leader in this country if we are to avoid worst-case climate change scenarios.

I am proud to support a candidate that is finding a way to be the change we must see in the world. Nick is informed, interested, enthusiastic, a good listener and a friendly leader. He truly is solution oriented – the kind of candidate we need more of in our community, in our state and in our nation. Nick Excline for STPUD.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sussman, South Lake Tahoe

7 counterfeit bills used at Stateline CVS

Three people are wanted in connection with using seven counterfeit \$100 bills at the CVS Pharmacy in Stateline on Sept. 30.

The three incidents occurred at 12:07am, 4:17am and 6:24am. The different suspects entered CVS, purchased Visa gift cards in varying amounts and received cash back in change.

The suspect in the first transaction is described as a male,

possible Hispanic, in his mid-30s, wearing a black hat, black sweat shirt.

In the second encounter, the suspect is described as a male, possible Hispanic, in his 30s, wearing a black hat, gray sweat shirt, and gray sweat pants.

The last suspect is described as a male Caucasian, in his 30s, wearing a black San Francisco Giants hat and gray Giants sweat shirt, and jeans.

A reward is being offered to anyone with information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the suspects. Anyone with information is urged to call DCSO dispatch at 775.782.5126 or Douglas County Secret Witness at 775.782.7463.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

PlumpJack Squaw Valley wants to rebuild

Owners of PlumpJack Squaw Valley Inn want to demolish the existing on-site structures to build a new multilevel hotel, two residential condominium buildings and an underground parking garage.

The project would include landscaping, bicycle and pedestrians paths connecting the proposed buildings and on-site recreational amenities. Water, sewer and drainage improvements would also be included to support the operation of the new facilities in Olympic Valley.

Comments on the draft environmental impact report will be taken until Nov. 4. The Placer County Planning Commission will have a public hearing on the project Oct. 27 at 10am at the North Tahoe Event Center in Kings Beach. The project does not require approval from the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

The draft EIR is available **online**.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Thor

Thor is a beautiful 10-month-old Lab mix. He is a sweet, active boy with lots of personality. He is house trained and loves to play with other dogs, especially fetch and tug of war. Thor would love a home with people who would take him hiking and to training classes to help him control his enthusiasm just a little.

Thor is neutered, microchipped, tested for heartworm, and vaccinated. He 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**.

– Karen Kuentz

Editorial: Vote no on SLT's Measure U

Publisher's note: *The following endorsement is from Lake Tahoe News after a team of seven community members gathered to discuss the merits of Measure U.*

South Lake Tahoe's City Council and staff are adamant they've gotten their fiscal house in order and that is why they feel secure in going to the voters for a sales tax increase. But if the house were truly in order, then a basic thing like roads would not require a special tax.

On the Nov. 8 ballot is a measure to raise the sales tax in the city limits by one-half cent. This would bring the total to 8.5 percent. Projections are it would raise \$2.5 million annually. There is no sunset for the tax, so it would go on indefinitely.

Raising the sales tax was already done once. It was increased by one-half percent after voters gave the go-ahead in November 2004. All of this "extra" revenue goes right to South Lake

Tahoe, whereas the bulk goes to the state. The same thing would happen with this increase – it would go straight to the city.

Therein lies the problem for *Lake Tahoe News*. That pot of cash would go directly to the General Fund. When staff comes up with the budget each year, the sales tax money could be going toward anything. It would take a diligent council to ensure the money is allocated “appropriately.” Then it would take a hawk-eye public to oversee the council’s decision.

While there is a second component to Measure U that asks voters where the sales tax dollars should go, the city is under no obligation to actually spend the money as the voters wish. Other than possibly being voted out of office, there are no consequences to not listening to voters’ desires.

And because management has said it’s time to give staff a raise and there was no money in the fiscal year’s budget that started Oct. 1 for those increases or money allocated in future years, we are nervous that this new pot of money from Measure U could find its way into paychecks instead pavement.

We also cannot unequivocally say the three choices are worthy. They are roads, housing and facilities. The advisory measures (Q=housing, R=Roads, S=Facilities) are so poorly written. One has to wonder if this was done to confuse voters. They are not well thought out, precise or concrete. The ambiguity is alarming.

We have seen the city appropriate funds in a manner that leaves us skeptical. There was a time when transient occupancy tax dollars were to be dedicated for tourism promotion. The city gave the visitors bureau and chamber of commerce funds for that cause. Councils changed, trust between the entities evaporated and the checks stopped being written.

Then there were the councils that somehow unknowingly kept spending money to the tune of \$7.2 million to build the

Heavenly Village project. These dollars came from the General Fund and to this day are still being paid back.

Think about what \$7.2 million 15 years ago would have bought in terms of road repair. Yes, the village and Cecil's projects are great, and the vision to bring them to fruition is to be commended. But the surreptitious way in how they got funded should never fade from voters' memory.

All of this underscores why we don't universally trust the city's staff or the electeds.

The other problem with a sales tax is that it is a regressive tax, meaning those at the lower end of the economic scale have a greater percentage of their income going to taxes than those in the upper echelon.

Even so, if the measure were to be written with the dollars going to a dedicated source (roads is our preference), we would be more amenable to it. We realize this would take a two-thirds vote, whereas the current measure only requires 50 percent, plus one to pass. This, though, would ensure the voters would be getting what they would be paying for – roads.

Harrowing journey of Air Force One on Sept. 11

By Garrett M. Graff, Politico

Nearly every American above a certain age remembers precisely where they were on Sept. 11, 2001. But for a tiny handful of people, those memories touch American presidential history. Shortly after the attacks began, the most powerful man in the

world, who had been informed of the World Trade Center explosions in a Florida classroom, was escorted to a runway and sent to the safest place his handlers could think of: the open sky.

For the next eight hours, with American airspace completely cleared of jets, a single blue-and-white Boeing 747, tail number 29000—filled with about 65 passengers, crew and press, and the 43rd president, George W. Bush, as well as 70 box lunches and 25 pounds of bananas—traversed the eastern United States. On board, Bush and his aides argued about two competing interests—the need to return to Washington and reassure a nation and the competing need to protect the commander in chief. All the while, he and his staff grappled with the aftermath of the worst attack on American soil in their lifetimes, making crucial decisions with only flickering information about the attacks unfolding below. Bush struggled even to contact his family and to reach Vice President Dick Cheney in the White House bunker.

The story of those remarkable hours—and the thoughts and emotions of those aboard—isolated eight miles above America, escorted by three F-16 fighters, flying just below the speed of sound, has never been comprehensively told.

Read the whole story

Wildland fire near Gardnerville burns 1 house

A wildland fire burning south of Gardnerville has destroyed one house and one outbuilding.

The voluntary evacuation for the Ruhenstroth area of Douglas County has been lifted. Highway 395 is also now open in both directions.

The fire was reported Oct. 2 at 1:10pm. About 75 acres have burned.

“The conditions are improving due the light rain, decrease in the winds and cooler temperatures,” East Fork Fire Protection District Deputy Chief Dave Fogerson said in a statement.

The cause is under investigation; however no lightening had occurred in the area.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*