

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Jude

Jude is a 10 month old pointer/pit bull mix, which means he has lots of energy.

Jude will do best in a household where he gets lots of exercise. Jude is house trained and knows sit, down, and stay, and he walks nicely on the leash. He likes to play with other dogs, play fetch in the lake, and play with other dogs at dog parks.

Please ask to see Jude out of his kennel as he is a lot less bouncy and barky out in the yard.

Jude is neutered, microchipped, tested for heart worm, 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**.

Wildflowers blanket Washoe Meadows Park



A variety of wildflowers grow throughout Washoe Meadows State Park. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

WASHOE MEADOWS STATE PARK – Wildflowers, some no bigger than a pinky nail, are bringing a seasonal splash of color to Washoe Meadows State Park.



“It’s a little past peak season. It changes week by week,” Lisa Berry, California Native Plant Society member, tells the group she is leading on a trek through the park. Even so, she manages to point out 34 flowers in a two-hour outing on the last Sunday of June.

This is the Sierra State Park Foundation’s first wildflower hike. The group’s goal is to bring more people into this park in Meyers.



“My favorite time to come here is in early spring. It’s really special,” Berry said.

Even so, those traipsing through the park on this particular day were thrilled to find such an array of flora. Some are obvious – they are right along the trail. Others are also

right on the trail – but not obvious. That was the fascinating thing about the excursion, finding flowers that might otherwise be overlooked.

Berry also used a discovery scope that allowed the group to see the detail of the flowers that isn't possible with the naked eye. She pointed out the particular elements of the flower, including the reproductive parts.



Tidbits of information were imparted – like how white and pink yarrow are the only colors found in the wild, while the other colors are garden variety; that these wildflowers are not bred to be picked, and would wilt quickly if put in a vase at

one's home; that even edible plants can become poisonous if a parasitized plant brushes against it; the basin has paint brush, but no Indian paint brush – that's more common in the Carson Pass area; native Americans used camas in their cooking because the bulb is sweet; the self-heal can be used for medicinal purposes; and the woolly mule ear is OK as a substitute for toilet paper in the woods, but corn ear might send you to the doctor.

Some of the flowers that were found on this walk were: star lily, cinquefoil, meadow penstemon, white brodiaea, Alpine dandelions, dusty horkelia, gillyflower, Sierra Nevada pea, salsify, torres lupine, and caterpillar phacelia.

Editorial: Conserve water like the drought is staying

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the June 23, 2016, Los Angeles Times.*

The water level in Lake Shasta, California's largest reservoir, had plunged to less than a third of normal by the end of last year. Then came the El Niño rainfall, which by April had tripled the volume of water in the lake. The story is similar in Trinity Lake, part of the same network of federal projects in the far northern portion of the state that regulate the flow of water to the Sacramento River on its journey south toward the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and San Francisco Bay.

In the northern Sierra, water levels were also perilously low in the state's second-largest reservoir, Lake Oroville on the Feather River. But snowmelt in that region has revived the lake and given some relief to the State Water Project, which also controls the water that eventually finds its way down the Sacramento River – and into the delta and the California Aqueduct, down the San Joaquin Valley, over the Tehachapi Mountains and into Southern California.

It's tempting to believe that the state has weathered some dry years and that the brimming Northern California reservoirs will now allow us to return to wet-year habits and lifestyles, but those days are gone forever. If the drought emergency is over, it's only because drought is no longer an emergency, but a permanent reality.

Read the whole story

Report: Hard to know who paid for political ads

By Geoff Mulvihill, AP

It's getting harder to know who is funding political advertising at the state level as more money becomes anonymous or is filtered from one political action committee to another, a study finds.

In 2014, the last year in which statewide elections were widespread across the country, only 29 cents of every \$1 of independent political spending could be tracked easily to its original individual donor, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. The center found that dark money and what it calls "gray" money are rising even faster in state elections than in federal races.

In places where the costs of elections can be cheaper because word is distributed by direct mail rather than television ads, the spending can have a larger impact.

"Dark money can outspend all," said Larry Norden, deputy director of the Brennan Center's program on democracy.

Dark money comes from nonprofit advocacy groups that spend on political purposes but are not subject to campaign finance disclosures. Its rise is one of the effects of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling, which removed caps on how much corporations, unions and interest groups can spend on advocacy communications that do not specifically call for the election or defeat of candidates.

That category of spending grew from less than \$600,000 in 2006

to nearly \$22 million in 2014 in the states the study evaluated.

Despite that rise, the majority of state political spending overall remains from traditional channels where most large contributions must be disclosed: candidates' official committees and party organizations.

One election with heavy dark money spending was the 2014 Arizona race for two seats on the Public Utilities Commission, which was in the throes of a debate over solar power policy.

More than \$3 million in dark money poured into that race through social welfare nonprofit groups that in turn donated to PACs that made independent expenditures. That was up from just \$3,000 in total outside spending in a similar race in 2008 – and all the money at that time was linked to specific donors.

Some of the 2014 money came from the Arizona Public Service Company, the state's biggest utility, but the company has not disclosed how much. There has been litigation since then over whether the public has a right to know how much the company funded. A utility spokeswoman did not return a call.

That election is a prime reason Arizona fast became a hub of dark money. In 2006, there was just \$35,000 involved in state races. In 2014, it was over \$10 million.

The Brennan study was limited to California, the most populous state, along with Arizona and four others: Alaska, Colorado, Maine and Massachusetts. They were among only nine that had statewide elections in the study years of 2006, 2010 and 2014 and collected enough data on political spending by outside groups to do the analysis. The authors said they did not have enough time to delve into all nine states, so they chose the first six alphabetically.

James Bopp Jr., a conservative Indiana lawyer who has pushed

for political contributions to be equated with speech, says the Brennan analysis is misleading.

Many states require advocacy groups to report individual donors who specify that their contributions be used for political purposes. Donors who make general gifts, he said, don't determine whether it will be used in political ads.

"It would be unfair to attribute that spending to any of your donors," Bopp said.

The Brennan authors said they were surprised not by the growth of dark money but rather by what they called gray money.

It happens when a super PAC, which is supposed to be independent of a candidate's campaign organization, takes contributions from other PACs. While all the committees are required to report the source of their funding, it takes digging through multiple reports to find out where the money originates.

That category of spending was far larger than the fully dark money in the six states. It was \$42 million in 2006 and tripled to \$129 million in 2014.

In California, the report found, strict state reporting requirements and tough enforcement meant there was not a surge in dark or gray money like there was elsewhere. Amounts of both were lower there in 2014 than four years earlier. But the report said voters still did not know who was behind political ads before Election Day in some cases.

The Brennan Center is calling for more disclosure requirements, including mandating that donors be made public before elections.

Felon back in South Lake Tahoe jail

A felon with a thick arrest record is behind bars again after being arrested at a South Lake Tahoe beach on Sunday.

Part of Sean Wanamaker's parole restrictions is that he isn't supposed to set foot in South Lake Tahoe, police Sgt. Travis Cabral told *Lake Tahoe News*. Not only has he been in town for a few days, he allegedly got in an argument with a guy that led to a weapon being drawn and then a six-hour standoff on Saturday at Motel 6.



Sean Wanamaker

While the standoff did not flush out Wanamaker, the 31-year-old didn't go far. He was located July 3 at Lakeside Beach.

Wanamaker faces charges of a felon being in possession of a firearm, brandishing a weapon, and violating parole.

Wanamaker is well known to South Lake Tahoe officers, as well as law enforcement on both coasts. In January, he was arrested in South Lake Tahoe on a parole violation and resisting arrest. In 2015, he was arrested on North Upper Truckee Road for alleged possession of drug paraphernalia, domestic battery and violation of parole. He has spent time in a New Jersey jail on a burglary charge, and was arrested several years ago in Mammoth on a felony hit and run charge.

State gives El Dorado, Placer money for roads

Combined, South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado and Placer counties have been awarded millions of dollars from the California Transportation Commission.

South Lake Tahoe is getting \$36.4 million for water treatment improvements and reconstruction of 10 lane miles of roadway on Highway 50 from north of the Highway 89 junction to the Trout Creek Bridge.

El Dorado County's \$16.6 million is for roadway improvements and replacement of the South Fork American River Bridge on Highway 49 near Coloma.

Placer County's allocation of \$799,000 went to Auburn to install Class II bike lanes and make curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements along Nevada Street between Placer Street and Fulweiler Avenue.

In all, 156 projects costing \$583 million will be built.

"Caltrans is working to ensure every dollar counts when it comes to California's transportation infrastructure," Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty said in a statement. "All these investments will benefit Californians now and for decades to come."

Trailhead Fire containment grows to 20%

Updated 6:54pm:

An air and ground assault continues today by firefighters working the Trailhead Fire in rural and remote El Dorado County.

Since the wildland blaze started June 28, 5,044 acres have burned. Contained has increased to 20 percent.

Most of the fire is burning in El Dorado County, which is where all the evacuations are. There are still 2,600 structures threatened. The lines around the fire in Placer County held overnight. Residents there on voluntary evacuation.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

As firework laws are relaxed, injuries increase

By Janissa Delzo, CNN

Fireworks are synonymous with Fourth of July celebrations. But as entertaining as sparklers, bottle rockets and other

consumer items can be, they're also responsible for many injuries, which can sometimes result in death.

These injuries, particularly burns requiring hospital stays, are especially high among people 20 and younger, according to new research.

As states have relaxed laws related to fireworks sales over the past decade, emergency doctors saw an increase in the number and severity of fireworks-related injuries among young people, the data show.

They determined that the number of patients under age 21 treated and released by emergency departments between 2006 and 2012 rose modestly: from 4.28 per 100,000 people in 2006 to 5.12 in 2012. Significantly larger increases were seen in injuries requiring inpatient hospital admission, which skyrocketed from 29 percent of cases in 2006 to 50 percent in 2012.

Read the whole story

Artist Studio Tour set for South Shore

Tahoe Art League's 10th annual Artist Studio Tour is July 29-31 and August 5-7, 10am-5pm each day.

This is a free, self-guided tour that includes numerous open studios to visit with either individual artists or artist collectives showing their work and studio spaces, offering a glimpse into what inspires each of these talented Lake Tahoe residents.

This year's event features 42 artists in 21 studios or studio collectives.

Attend 10 studios or purchase \$100 of artwork to qualify to enter into a drawing to win a piece of artwork.

Artists offer creations as individual and varied as are the media presented in this tour, including: glass, metal, silver, fiber art, mosaics, mixed media, sculpture, strung and woven jewelry, wearable art, carved and painted gourds, collage, pottery, and book arts. Maps to this event are **online**.

Judge rejects bid to block posting Nev. sex offender names

By Associated Press

A Nevada judge didn't put a last-minute stop on a state plan to begin posting the names of thousands of convicted sex offenders whose cases had previously been deemed low-risk.

Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Smith rejected an emergency request on Thursday from attorneys for 17 unnamed plaintiffs who argued that publishing the names will do significant irreparable harm to Tier 1 offenders.

The judge says there was plenty of time to challenge the measure, and an appeal for a delay should have been filed sooner.

But he did schedule a July 12 hearing on a challenge of the constitutionality of the law.

The postings due to start Friday were approved by the state Legislature in 2007 to comply with the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.