Truck full of ice cream to be hauled from Ebbetts Pass ravine

By Michael Kay, Union Democrat

A towing company will soon remove the wreckage of a semi-trailer truck that fell from a famous curve on Highway 4 into a ravine last month while carrying 40,000 pounds of ice cream and peanut butter chips.

But the rusting Cadillac whose decades-long stay in ravine has given “Cadillac Curve” its name is likely to stay put, as the Stanislaus National Forest does not have the funds to remove it, according to spokesman Jerry Snyder.

The remains of the ice cream may also have to to wait. Leah Knapp, a spokeswoman for Progressive Insurance, which insured the truck, said another company is responsible for cleaning up the ice cream bars and coolers strewn across the wall of the ravine.

Officer Jeff Gartner of the California Highway Patrol’s South Lake Tahoe office estimated hauling out the truck would cost at least $20,000, but possibly much more.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Take out LT Golf

Course, protect trout in river

By Huey Johnson

In the 1960s, while I was with the Department of Fish and Game, it was my sad task to study the trout of Lake Tahoe. Few remember that an atrocity against Tahoe occurred there, an atrocity comparable to the slaughter of the once great buffalo herds of the Great Plains: the completion of the nation's first Federal Bureau of Reclamation dam.

Derby Dam blocked the Truckee River and killed the huge run of trout that had, for thousands of years, come from Pyramid Lake upriver to Tahoe. That first year, the new dam blocked tons of huge trout trying to spawn while the dam's beneficiaries – desert hay farmers – pitchforked wagonloads of fish, which they used as fertilizer.

Back then, lovely Lake Tahoe had such a large trout population that it supported a commercial fishery. Dams like Derby disrupted that.

Read the whole story

Huey Johnson is president of the Resource Renewal Institute, a Mill Valley nonprofit.

Technology, snowsports to

collide at annual Tahoe Snowcial

The worlds of digital storytelling, snowsports and technology will converge on Heavenly Mountain Resort Jan. 6-9 for Tahoe Snowcial, a winter festival of technology and snowsports.

The Snowcial Organizing Committee has announced the program and a partial lineup of speakers for the third annual Tahoe Snowcial, which brings together thought leaders and experts in technology, social media and snowsports to spark new ideas for the future, link networks, passions and turns.

Dave Morin, co-founder and CEO of Path, and co-founder of the Facebook Platform and Facebook Connect; Josh Williams, CEO of Gowalla; Rob Katz, CEO of Vail Resorts; and David Norton, CMO of Harrah's Entertainment will share their stories and online innovations.

Recording artist and entrepreneur M.C. Hammer will also make a special appearance. An event that's one part theory and three parts practice, Snowcial provides an on- and off-mountain atmosphere where opportunities for personal and professional development flourish.

More information, click here.

In addition to the half-day conference, Tahoe Snowcial 2011 also offers three days of skiing or snowboarding at Heavenly Mountain Resort, two headline concerts at Harrah's Resort Casino, a welcome reception, two dinners, a lunch, a breakfast and networking opportunities galore. Register before Oct. 1 to secure the best rates. The no-hotel, no-lift ticket option is designed for locals with a Heavenly pass.

Do you have a snowsports-inspired technology or social media story that needs to be heard? Submit a speaker proposal here.

The deadline to receive the proposal is Sept. 30. Speakers will be notified shortly thereafter.

Monday night creative writing workshops

Tangled Roots Writing of Truckee offers Monday Night Creative Writing Workshops to explore creative writing of any genre in a fun supportive environment for any level of writer.

Read, write, discuss, and generate new material each week, receiving feedback from the group and instructor Karen Terrey.

The next sessions are Sept 13, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8 from 6:30–8pm in Truckee.

For more information, call (530) 386.3901 or email tangledrootswriting@gmail.com.

Writers workshops in Truckee

Tangled Roots Writing is hosting a series of creative writing workshops in downtown Truckee this fall.

Each workshop is different:

Oct. 30 10am–1pm “Inspiration”

Nov. 13 1-4 pm “Feedback”

Dec. 11th 10am–1pm “Publishing”

Connect with a writing community, generate new material, work on a piece in progress, play with language and meaning, and develop a writing practice in a supportive creative environment.

Cost is $35 per day or $30 each for two or more sessions.

Contact Karen Terrey at (530) 386.3901 or tangledrootswriting@gmail.com for more information.

EFT class for caregivers

Being a caregiver is a huge part of your life, often with emotional highs and lows. Learn a powerful acupressure technique called Emotional Freedom Technique that can help you lower your fears, balance your emotions and keep you healthy.

In a safe setting discuss the challenges you face as a caregiver and practice ways of dealing with these challenges. This workshop will include a PowerPoint presentation, demonstration, supervised practice and handouts.

This workshop will be presented by Rosemary Manning. As a resident of South Lake Tahoe for more than 30 years, Manning is a mind-body therapist, practicing at her clinic, Tahoe Health Touch.

Date: Oct. 18

Time: 1-3pm

Location: Embassy Suites, 4130 Lake Tahoe Blvd.,

South Lake Tahoe

To register, call: 800.510.2020

Tahoe Snowcial at Heavenly

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BlueGo routes changing, audit still not done

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Riders of BlueGo, the South Shore's bus service that is bankrupt, can expect more route changes as of Oct. 3.

The South Tahoe Area Transit Authority board unanimously agreed to the changes at the Sept. 10 meeting. The South Lake Tahoe City Council will vote on the changes Sept. 14.

Gordon Shaw with LSC consultants once again gave a PowerPoint presentation to the board. The route changes and budget were the focus of his talk.



BlueGo routes are being cut to save money.

Gone is Route 22 – Stateline/Zephyr Cove and Route 40 – Meyers.

Also eliminated are routes 52, 54 and 55. The expansion of routes 50 and 53 are supposed to help lessen the impact on riders who use those three eliminated routes.

"We know we can get to the college at least once an hour,"

Shaw told the board.

A survey is going on now to assess what people going to Lake Tahoe Community College would like and to then tweak the route as necessary to accommodate them.

The budget shows $159,893 in surplus for the fiscal year 2010-11. But it also includes $275,000 from El Dorado County even though the county is no longer part of STATA.

Kathay Lovell, mayor of South Lake Tahoe and STATA board member, raised a concern about keeping that money in the budget. Carl Hasty, leader of Tahoe Transportation District which now runs the day-to-day operations for STATA, said he spoke with the county's counsel Sept. 9 and is confident El Dorado will be a member again.

El Dorado County pulled out in July because of liability issues and lack of confidence regarding financial issues.

STATA still does not have its 2009 audit complete. Even though it was on the agenda Sept. 10, it was not approved. The board gave Dan Garrison, who works for Ridge Tahoe and is treasurer of the board, direction to approve the audit. The board never intends to vote on accepting or rejecting it. Nor does it have to by law.

But a copy of the draft is not being given to anyone. This is not sitting well with at least El Dorado County.

Lake Tahoe News obtained an email between county Auditor-Controller Joe Harn and Russ Nygaard, the county's deputy director of engineering and facilities, which was cc'd to a number of people, including the whole Board of Supervisors. It's in response to Hasty telling Nygaard the audit won't be released until the STATA board gets it.

Harn writes, "Carl Hasty's position is ridiculous. For a funding agency, like the County of El Dorado not to be able to

obtain a copy of STATA's June 2009 audit is ridiculous. The County and DOT [Department of Transportation] need to consider fully the problems of contracting with agencies located in Nevada. There seems to be great delays in providing the County with basic public records. With the litigation going on with MV Transportation, TTD's failure to provide us with basic public records is not helpful."

STATA is a Nevada entity. If it were in California, the draft would be a public document.

Hasty said after the Sept. 10 meeting he expects the final audit to be done next week.

The audit was pulled from an earlier agenda because the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency said it had issues with language in the document. TPRA doesn't have a voting member on the STATA board.

It was TRPA that brought in John Andoh as the transit administrator. And it was TRPA's financial ledgers that were used by STATA for a number of years. Without seeing the audit and subsequent revisions, it's anyone's guess as to what the numbers show and what changes were made.

The reason this is a big deal is that for the most part this is public money.

The Stateline casinos, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Grace Academy, Ridge Tahoe and Big George Ventures are the private partners.

STATA has filed for bankruptcy. It is also facing a number of lawsuits from MV Transportation, the former operator of BlueGo.

STATA was able to resolve one legal matter at this month's meeting. In closed session the board voted to accept the settlement with ATM and Andrew Morris, the transit operator

before MV took over.

“We were suing them. It mostly had to do with the status of the fleet,” STATA chairwoman Nancy McDermid said after the meeting. She deferred details to STATA attorney Mike McLaughlin. He was not available late Friday.

Sexually transmitted diseases going untreated

By Carrie Peyton Dahlberg, Sacramento Bee

With government budgets pinched, some counties in the Sacramento region are cutting back on finding and treating people with sexually transmitted diseases.

Both Sacramento and El Dorado counties are contacting fewer patients and fewer of their partners than they used to, public health doctors say. That increases the risk that untreated, perhaps unwitting people will infect others.

“The epidemic that’s already pretty rampant is going to get worse,” said Dr. Glennah Trochet, Sacramento County’s public health officer. “These illnesses will become much more widespread.”

Read the whole story

Golf, kayaking part of LT Marathon Week

In addition to its many running-related events, biking and triathlon competitions, the Lake Tahoe Marathon will also offer Speed Golf as part of the Lake Tahoe Marathon Race Week, Sept. 22-26.

Speed Golf takes place Sept. 23 at the Tahoe Paradise Golf Course, 3021 Highway 50. The course is 4,000 yards. Start time is 9am before the golf-only guests tee off. Participants run the 18-hole course, a distance of approximately 4K, carrying three golf clubs of their choice. Their overall score is a combination of the stroke plus run time. Participants' times start with the first drive and ends with the last putt. Golfers should bring a fanny pack to hold balls and other items. Top five wwards are offered in the men and women's division.

Green fees are $35 when you register online and $40 via mail-in registration.

For those that would rather paddle than swing, the Lake Tahoe Marathon is also offering 5- and 10-mile kayak competitions (also scull, outriggers and canoes) Sept. 24 at the Lakeside Beach & Marina near Stateline. For the second year, Race Week will also have an event for stand-up paddle boarders with awards and windshirts.

For more information or to register (fees vary for events), call (530) 544.7095 or visit the Lake Tahoe Marathon website. The website is also home to a course map and profile and event descriptions.