

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Peeps

Peeps is a sweet 10 month old girl. She likes other cats and dogs. She is a bit shy in the shelter, but will probably warm up quickly in a home.

She was brought to Tahoe from another shelter when they ran out of space.

Peeps is spayed, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. 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**.

– Karen Kuentz

Poison not best option to kill rodents

By Stella McMillin

Spring is in the air and rodents may be in your garage, attic, closets, cabinets, tool shed or yard. It's a busy time for pest control companies and rodenticide sales. But nature can control rodent populations if you let it. In the natural environment, there is balance. Every creature is prey to some animals and predator to others.

Raptors – owls, hawks, falcons, eagles and vultures – are rodents' natural predators. If you actively protect them and their habitat, you won't need to spend money on poisons and put desirable wildlife, pets and children at risk of accidental poisoning. Environmentally friendly tactics (such as providing tall trees that raptors favor) will encourage these birds of prey to hang around your yard and remove rodents for you.

Most raptors use the same nest for many years and some even pass from one generation to the next. Bald eagles are known to have used the same nest as long as 35 years. That makes them an excellent long-term control for rodent populations in the immediate area.

During breeding season, a family of five owls can eat as many as 3,000 rodents. You can encourage them by hanging a nest box on your property, but please don't do that if you or any of your neighbors are using anticoagulant rodenticides. Remember that poisoned rodents can poison the predators, scavengers and pets that eat them.

Even though the state Department of Pesticide Regulation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have restricted public access to the most dangerous rodenticides, all rodenticides – including the types still available to consumers – are poisons that can kill wildlife, pets and children.

Unfortunately, even after stricter regulations on rodenticides were enacted, wildlife continue to be exposed to second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum and difethialone). Licensed pest control companies and agricultural producers are still free to use them. If consumers hire pest control companies, they should know that the materials the firms use could poison local wildlife. Only consumers can ensure that it doesn't. The most effective pest control does not involve chemicals, but sanitation and exclusion.

Like most animals, rodents will congregate and multiply where food is available and they feel safe. The easiest way to discourage them is to remove or modify anything that could make them comfortable. Sanitation is the first step to controlling rodents.

For example:

- Keep your home and yard neat and clean. Don't give rats places to hide.
- Remove objects and plants that rodents can hide under, such as wood piles, debris, construction waste, dense vegetation and ground-covering vines like ivy.
- Pick up fruit that has fallen from trees as soon as possible.
- Secure your garbage in a tightly sealed can.
- Seal water leaks and remove standing water that can attract unwelcome animals, breed mosquitoes and waste water.
- To remove unwelcome rodents, set traps in secluded areas where they've been seen or are likely to travel: close

to walls, behind objects, in dark corners, on ledges, shelves, fences, pipes and garage rafters. In areas where children, pets or birds might go, put the trap inside a box or use some kind of barrier for their safety. Check traps daily and wear disposable gloves when removing rodents from traps. Place them in a sealed plastic bag then into your garbage bin for weekly collection. Wash your hands after handling traps or rodents, even when using gloves.

Once you've removed mice and rats from inside the building, seal the entries they used to get in: openings where cables, wires and pipes enter buildings, and cracks or holes in the foundation, walls and roofs. Rodents can squeeze into holes as narrow as one-half inch diameter. Use hardware mesh and concrete, plaster or metal whenever possible. At the very least, stuff stainless steel or copper pot scrubbers, or Stuf-fit copper mesh wool into the spaces. All of these are sold online and at hardware and dollar stores.

If you feel you must use "rat poison," carefully follow the label directions for all rodenticides. Only use them in small treatment areas indoors or right against building walls in tamper-resistant bait stations, never out in open field or garden areas, where they're most likely to reach wildlife and pets. Much more information and practical advice can be found on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's **website**.

Stella McMillin works for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Children's book publishing and memoir classes in Meyers

Bona Fide Books & Letterpress in Meyers will offer two classes of interest to writers in May.

"So You Want to Write and/or Illustrate a Children's Book—Now What?" is the title of children's book author and illustrator Kristen Schwartz's class. It will be an intensive, personalized session aimed toward helping writers and illustrators of children's, middle grade and young adult books find their footing in the publishing industry.

The class is May 14 from 10am-2:30pm. Space is limited; the fee is \$75.

Have you always wanted to tell your story? When you talk about your life, do people say you should write a book? Are you already writing your memoir, hoping to submit it for publication? "Getting to the Story Behind the Story: Writing a Memoir That Matters" will be May 19, 6-9pm.

"Almost Somewhere: 28 Days on the John Muir Trail" author Suzanne Roberts will teach this session for those who have always wanted to tell their story. In this class, writers learn how to get to the heart of the story and write a personal narrative that matters. The class fee is \$45/\$35 students.

Both classes will be at Bona Fide Books & Letterpress in Meyers, 1069 Magua St., No.4.

Bona Fide Books & Letterpress is an independent press and print shop in Meyers. For more information or to register, call 530.545.1373, email editor@bonafidebooks.com or go online.

TRPA recognizes those helping Lake Tahoe

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency on April 27 presented Lake Spirit Awards to four people based on their commitment to preserving Lake Tahoe.

The Lake Spirit Awards honor people making real progress at restoring Lake Tahoe.

Awards were given in two categories, exemplary citizen and exemplary agency representative. This year's winners are:

Exemplary Citizen

South Shore: Ben Fish is president of Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association and Bijou Bike Park Association. Through his work, Fish has led hundreds of volunteers over thousands of hours to build and maintain bike trails around the lake while advocating for sustainable trail use. In addition to his advocacy for the mountain bike community, Fish was the impetus behind the Bijou Bike Park.

North Shore: Cyrus Miller is an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 228 of the Boy Scouts of America. Although Miller lives in the Bay Area, he regularly visits the North Shore. On one of his visits, he noticed an old rusted pipe laying on the drought-exposed lakebed just south of Tahoe City. Miller decided to make removing this pipe his Eagle Scout candidacy project. After seven months of planning with local agencies and property owners, he and the rest of his troop spent two days last June removing the pipe section by section from the lake. In total, the Scouts removed 730 feet of pipe and restored the lakebed to a more natural state.

Exemplary Agency Representative

South Shore: Beth Quandt works as the science program coordinator with the Lake Tahoe Unified School District. She is the lead organizer for the South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition, which implements hands-on outdoor science programming in local schools. The programs Quandt leads serve roughly 14,500 students, teachers, and volunteers each year.

North Shore: Lisa Wallace is executive director for the Truckee River Watershed Council. For 20 years, she has worked to protect, restore, and enhance the Truckee River Watershed. She has guided the council's efforts by implementing hundreds of projects, leading thousands of volunteers, and fostering public-private partnerships. Wallace also played a key role in the implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement, which affects all waterbodies and water users.

Money matters: Financial independence takes planning

By Nic Abelow

We are all faced with choices every day. Mostly those choices are related to what we should be doing, what we can purchase, or where are we going. Today it is more important than ever to control what you can control.



Nic Abelow

Here are my five keys to financial independence:

1. **Have a plan** – Everybody has a unique set of circumstances that requires a unique perspective and understanding. Know your numbers and understand your strengths and weaknesses.

“Plan for the future because that is where you are going to spend the rest of your life.” – Mark Twain

2. **Pay yourself first** – Savings are born from sacrifice. Target your income and savings to have purpose. Identify your values and make sure your money has your back. Remember spending has no upward limit.

“Don’t save what is left after spending: spend what is left after saving.” “Someone’s sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” – Warren Buffet

3. **Balance experience and things** – Learning to live on everything is nothing while learning to live on nothing is everything.

“Wealth is the ability to fully experience life.” – Henry David Thoreau

4. **Be prepared** – Build your short-term reserves as well as plan for your short-term goals. Remain focused on the objectives and keep at it. Discipline yourself or the world will do it for you.

“Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.”

– John Lennon

5. **Take action** – Financial success will not come by itself. Honesty is the best policy. It is hard to remain disciplined if you are not being honest with yourself. Fostering illusions of prosperity only further cripples our ability to make the necessary difficult decisions.

“When it is obvious that goals cannot be reached, don’t adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.” – Confucius

Take control today for tomorrow may never come. Set realistic expectations, open your mind to new possibilities, live in the here and now, but do not forget about the future.

Nic Abelow is a LPL financial advisor with Abelow, Pratt & Associates Financial Advisors and Wealth Management in Lake Tahoe.

Squaw Olympic museum moves forward

The Squaw Valley Ski Museum Foundation board of directors is working toward establishing a 1960 Winter Olympics museum at the entrance of the resort.

It would showcase the colorful ski history of the Sierra. Peter Pfau, of Pfau Long Architecture in San Francisco, and Larry Young, of Ward Young Architects in Truckee, will lead the architectural design process. They will work with Gary Davis, whose local design and engineering firm JKGD Architecture & Engineering is taking the lead for the site application process.

While fundraising for the site application is under way, the board is also raising funds to hire an executive director to manage marketing, community outreach, fundraising and administrative tasks.

More info is **online**.

Playwrights being sought for Tahoe festival

Entries are open for the second annual Lake Tahoe WordWave One-Act Play Competition.

WordWave, A Festival of Story at Lake Tahoe, will return Oct. 21-23 to the Tallac Historic Site on the South Shore.

Winners of the play competition receive a \$500 and the chance to see their work directed and produced as a reading on the historic Boathouse Theatre stage. Winners receive two nights of lodging and the opportunity for a pre- or post-show discussion with the audience. Three winners will be selected.

The deadline for entry is June 3. Submit plays **online**. There is a \$20 submission fee for each play. Manuscripts can have a running time of no more than 60 minutes, and writers may enter multiple works.

WordWave is a three-day writing event that includes workshops, readings, panel discussions, agents, and a steampunk ball. Most of the events are free and all events are open to the public.

For more information or questions, email tahoewordwave@gmail.com.

Plein air artist to give demo in SLT

Tahoe Art League is hosting an oil painting demonstration by one of the best contemporary plein air painters of the West.

Charles Muench will be in South Lake Tahoe on May 11 at 6pm.

The title of his presentation is Pack Mules and Plein Air – Exploring the Sierra Backcountry.

The free demo starts at 7pm at the senior center, 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd. The meeting and refreshments are at 6pm.

For more info, email info@talart.org.

Study: Roof racks great for bikes, bad for mileage

By David R. Baker, San Francisco Chronicle

For snowboarders, surfers and mountain bikers, the car roof rack is an indispensable accessory, essential for weekend getaways.

Unfortunately, it's also a bit of a gas hog.

A study published Monday found that a seemingly innocuous rack can cut mileage by as much as 25 percent, depending on its configuration and whether it's fully loaded.

Food drive focuses on youth in need

Bread & Broth 4 Kids' second Cram-A-Cruiser event at the Grocery Outlet will be April 30 from 9am-2pm.

A South Lake Tahoe police car will be in the parking lot in front of the store. The goal is to fill it up with as much food as possible, which will then be distributed to kids in need.

The nonprofit fills up bags of food every Friday for 120 South Lake Tahoe children who are in need of extra food over the weekend. Each week, the students receiving the supplemental food get two breakfasts, two lunches, three dinners and four snacks. They get more if it is a three-day weekend or week-long holiday.

Ideal donations include single serving sizes of the following types of non-perishable food:

Macaroni and cheese

Cup-of-noodles

Soup

Top Ramen

Canned vegetables

Fruit cups

Instant oatmeal

Spaghettios, raviolis, chili

Canned tuna

Granola bars

Bags of nuts

Peanut butter

Cheese or peanut butter filled crackers

Fruit snacks.

Cash donations will also be accepted.