

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Winston

Winston is a 5-year-old, 12-pound poodle who does not shed. He is playful and fun, and loves to play with people and other dogs.

He will chase cats who run, but he doesn't know what to do when he catches up to them. He would be fine around confident cats.

Winston has been in shelters since May, and was transferred to Tahoe to change his luck. He likes car rides and going for walks, and is crate trained and house trained.

Winston is neutered, microchipped, 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 online 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.

– Karen Kuentz

Roger Ramseier – 1936-2013

By Robert D. Dávila, Sacramento Bee

Roger Ramseier, a former Aerojet president who led the aerospace and defense contractor amid major industry downsizing after the end of the Cold War, died Sept. 13 of complications related to prostate cancer, his family said. He was 77.

Mr. Ramseier, who grew up in Sacramento, spent his entire career at Aerojet, a maker of rocket engines and missile propulsion systems based in Rancho Cordova. He started after graduating in 1959 from UC Berkeley – where he played football under legendary coach Pappy Waldorf – and climbed the ranks with a reputation as a visionary leader who approached problems head on.



Roger Ramseier

In 1978, Mr. Ramseier was named head of Aerojet's liquid rocket division, which was facing possible closure after shutting down production of Titan rocket engines as the space shuttle program was gearing up. Convinced that the United States needed more than one way to get satellites into space, he joined other Aerojet executives in lobbying Washington officials for a space shuttle companion vehicle. After the 1986 Challenger explosion temporarily halted shuttle flights,

Aerojet was ready to provide NASA with rockets to launch satellites.

Mr. Ramseier moved to Carnelian Bay after retiring from Aerojet in 1997 and was a past president of Tahoe City Rotary Club. He enjoyed family gatherings, traveling, skiing in the Sierra Nevada and taking friends out on Lake Tahoe in his boat.

Read the whole story

Time to figure out what you'll spend in retirement

By Jeff Gorton

Age 85 is a bad time to go broke.

Budgeting how you spend money before retirement can often be a misleading measurement of how you'll actually spend it during retirement.

Spending 40 hours a week at work not only earns you a paycheck, it also keeps you from spending money on more vacations, matinee screenings at the movie theater, extra trips to the mall or shopping online. You need to be exceedingly realistic in your planning, and the five years before retirement are actually the most crucial in solidifying post-employment stability.^a

To prevent a rude awakening during retirement, Gorton makes certain his clients start with a written income plan (WIP). He reviews the benefits and importance of this "living document":

- A comprehensive list of life expenses paints a clearer picture. For a 65-year-old married couple today, there is a 72 percent chance that at least one spouse will live to age 85; a 45 percent chance that one will live to age 90, and an 18 percent chance that one will reach age 95, according a recent study from the CDC National Center for Health Statistics. You may not think of listing things like pet care, yard maintenance, and regular visits to salons or spas. But if you enjoy those services now, you may want them during retirement, and you might find that you underestimated the real cost of maintaining your desired lifestyle. And, that's not including gifts to children and grandchildren.

- The forecast of a two-legged stool. A WIP helps you appreciate the reliability of retirement income. What sources of income do you anticipate having? Traditionally, retirement funding has been viewed as a "three-legged stool," implying a balance between Social Security, retirement plans and savings/investments. As the Baby Boom generation ages, Social Security benefits may decrease – and the age at which an individual can collect benefits may increase. Changes in employment may affect retirement plans. As a result, the third leg of the stool, savings/investments, may become even more important.

- Who is authoring your WIP? As with all written documents, you must always consider the source. What you may not realize is that a financial planner is liable to have a stake in selling you a financial product. Just like a retailer may have an incentive to move certain brands of products, many planners are incentivized to have you invest in specific financial vehicles from major institutions. What plan works best for you? Seek advice from an expert who isn't trying to sell you something, such as an independent firm.

If you don't have a written income plan, then you're just hoping things will work out.

Jeff Gorton is a certified public accountant and a certified financial planner specializing in individual tax and retirement planning.

2-day Oktoberfest celebration at Camp Rich

Munich's great tradition returns to the shores of Lake Tahoe for Camp Richardson's 19th annual Oktoberfest on Oct. 5-6.

New this year is an Emerald Bay Beer Cruise with featured Oktoberfest brews, signature mugs and German pretzels. Boats depart Saturday and Sunday at 1 and 3:30pm for a 90-minute round-trip cruise to Emerald Bay. Lederhosen are optional, but encouraged. Tickets are \$44 for adults and \$19 for children 12 and under. Spots are limited and reservations are recommended.

Camp Richardson offers fun for the whole family, including the family dog, from 10am-5pm both days. Activities include an owner and dog dress up contest, German food and desserts, craft booths, face painting, pumpkin patch, bouncy house, live music featuring the Gruber Family Band, and beer and wine garden.

Humans can also get in on various contests during the two-day festival that range from beer stein holding to yodeling. Admission and parking in the Eagles Nest campground is free for Oktoberfest.

Medical students get schooled in nutrition by chefs

By Kristin Gourlay, NPR

For the past few weeks, the culinary arts students at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I., have been working with some less-than-seasoned sous chefs.

One of them, Clinton Piper, may look like a pro in his chef's whites, but he's struggling to work a whisk through some batter.

"I know nothing about baking," he says.

Luckily, he's got other qualifications. Piper is a fourth-year medical student at Tulane University School of Medicine, and he's here for a short rotation through a new program designed to educate med students and chefs-in-training about nutrition.

"I think it's forward thinking to start to see, to view food as medicine," he says. "That's not something that's really on our radar in medical education. But with the burden of disease in the United States being so heavily weighted with lifestyle disease, I think it's a very, very logical next step."

Read the whole story

Bijou putting the community

back in school



Proposed playground equipment for Bijou Community School.
Photos/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

The “community” in Bijou Community School is real; it’s not just a name.

In part this has to do with how the South Lake Tahoe school site is used. It is the only park-like area with grass and a playground between Stateline and the city’s recreation center on Rufus Allen Boulevard.

And the community aspect is demonstrated with the support the school receives from people with children at the school and community members with no familial connection.

While it is a school, go around back and the park setting is evident. It has been a gradual transformation in the last few

years. Gone is the dirt field where children would play. A large grassy area is now fenced off from the ball field. A fitness course has been installed. The blacktop has been repaved.



Children play on outdated equipment at Bijou Community School. Photo/Kathryn Reed

And it's not just kids playing here during school. People in the neighborhood use Bijou long after the last bell of the day and on weekends.

But what sticks out is the play equipment – some of which was first installed in the 1950s. It's old and doesn't meet today's safety standards.

A fundraising effort is under way to have all of that taken out and replaced with state-of-the-art play structures. It's estimated that \$100,000 will be needed to buy what parents groups want.

Next week is the annual walk-a-thon. It's usually a \$20,000 moneymaker. The goal is to double that amount this year and earmark all of it for playground equipment. Ideally, the equipment would be installed next spring.

Edgewood Companies has pledged \$5,000, \$20,000 in grants have been secured, and two anonymous donors have each committed \$5,000 toward the project.

“It should be a community effort,” parent Kathy Haven said of the playground project. She has been spearheading this project and has a team of parents helping solicit donations.

The Bijou PTA is a nonprofit that has been able to rally parents and others to get a ton of work done that the school district doesn't have the funds to do. This includes the benches that are now around the school and some of the landscaping.

Now, even the front of the school looks inviting.

A dry lakebed that was put in this last year was tested in August during a deluge. There's a good chance had it not been there the rainwater would have reached classrooms. Last weekend volunteers were cleaning out the debris so it will be able to sustain the next downpour or spring runoff.

Bijou gets a substantive amount of volunteer time from parents. To have a child in the two-way immersion program one parent must spend 30 minutes a week in their child's classroom and 30 minutes on one of 14 committees. There are 260 students in the Spanish-English program.

The committees are designed to help the whole school, not just TWI kids. They range from reading in English or Spanish at the library to working during recess to doing landscaping.

TWI started just in kindergarten, so there were 20 volunteers. Now the program has multiple classrooms in grades K-6, which has grown the volunteer pool. There are 60 new volunteers starting each fall as kindergarten TWI parents come onboard.

Bijou has also benefitted from taxpayer funded Measure G, Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, Rotary of South Lake Tahoe, and a slew of businesspeople who have donated supplies and work hours to get things done.

Another example of Bijou being a community school is the

number of after school clubs that nearly two-thirds of the students partake in. This year there are 18 clubs with 356 students participating.

Parents volunteer their time by sharing their expertise with groups of kids. Clubs range from cooking to cycling to ballet.

To donate to Bijou's playground fund, email khaven@gmail.com.

Freakers Ball returns to MontBleu

Head spinning Halloween costume get-ups will be mashed into a giant four-ring party at one price on Oct. 26 during the 35th annual Freakers Ball at MontBleu in Stateline.

Doors open at 8pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 the week of party; go online or call the MontBleu Box Office at 888.829.7630.

The party is spread over four MontBleu venues – Opal, Blu, the convention center and the Haunted Zone Party Pit.

For VIP table and bottle service call (775) 586.2000.

Tina Turner tribute show on South Shore

The music of legendary R&B artist Tina Turner will be featured in Simply the Best, a free tribute concert on Sept. 28 at MontBleu in Stateline.

But the time is still a mystery.

Singer Stephanya has filled Turner's famous high heels with soulful interpretations of her most beloved songs.

For information, call 888.829.7630.

Christmas tree season already under way

By Tina Susman, Los Angeles Times

ARLINGTON, Va. — It was 90-plus degrees outside, but there was a distinctly wintry feel in the second-floor lobby of a hotel overlooking the Potomac River.

Perhaps it was the rows of Christmas trees, standing tall and straight as tin soldiers. Or maybe the wreaths displayed on stands, like perfect leafy doughnuts, or the velvet bows and sparkly ribbons.

The only thing missing was Santa Claus.

The height of summer might seem a strange time for this event, but there is method in the apparent madness of the annual gathering of the National Christmas Tree Association.

It gives tree growers a chance to swap ideas on how to confront some of their biggest challenges, such as the popularity of fake trees – “permanent trees,” as folks here call them. It offers vendors the chance to find buyers for everything from color-enhanced trees – yes, some are painted – to tree stands.

It also determines which of the firs, spruces and cypresses on display in the lobby will be crowned “grand champion,” an honor that guarantees its grower a visit to the White House to present First Lady Michelle Obama with the official Blue Room tree. The runner-up is known as the “grand reserve,” and its grower gives a tree to the vice president.

“It’s a very big deal,” Vicki Smith said. “It’s sort of like the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show for Christmas trees.”

Read the whole story

Various faiths to gather for day of peace

There will be multifaith clergy gathering at Lake Tahoe for peace on Sept. 21.

Area leaders of various religions and denominations are gathering at Tahoe Vista Recreation Area at 11:30am to celebrate International Day of Peace, aka Peace Day.

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, who is president of Universal Society of Hinduism, will open the Interfaith Peace Service with invocation from oldest scripture of the world still in common use Rig-Veda; besides Upanishads and Bhagavad-Gita,

both ancient Hindu scriptures; in Sanskrit followed by English translation.

This service, reflecting the universal teaching of “Love thy neighbor”, will include prayers, readings, poems, songs and chants offering visions of a world of peace.

Other participants include the Rev. Clare C. Novak and Rector Eric Heidecker of Incline Village St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Rabbi Meredith Cahn of Tahoe Vista North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation, Roman Catholic Diocese of Reno Life-Peace-Justice Commission Coordinator Rita Sloan, Kathleen Cornell Mahoney of Kings Beach United Methodist Church, the Rev. Liz Luoma of Tahoe-Truckee Center for Spiritual Living, Vicar Jenni Liem of Tahoe City St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, Washoe County Baha’i Spiritual Assembly Vice Chairperson Mary Jo Adams and Ana Lizbeth Servin-Bancroft of Kings Beach North Tahoe Family Resource Center.