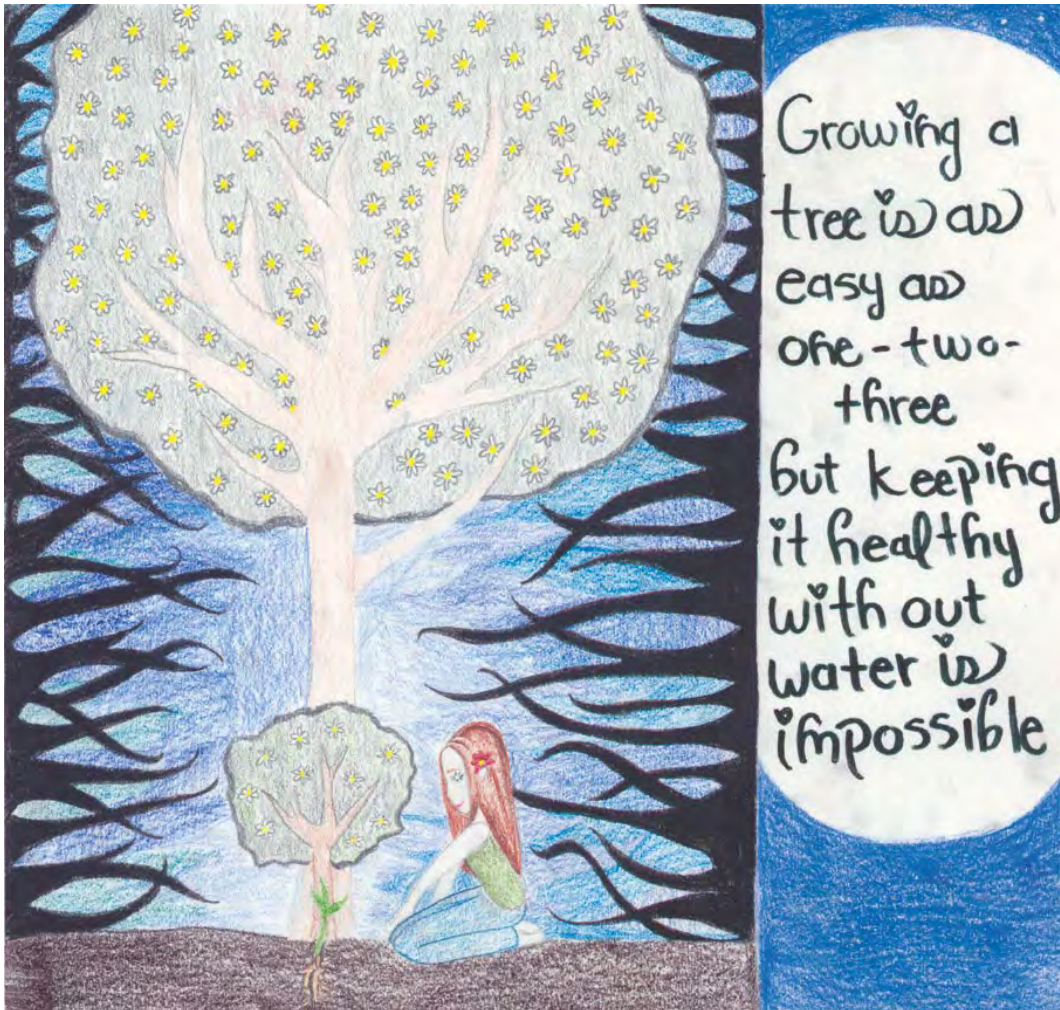


TMWA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Press Clippings

May 11, 2012 – June 11, 2012



*Ryeli Pferschy (Mendive Middle School)
2010 Poster Art Contest - Second Place, Grades 7-8*



This article was printed from the Opinions section of the *Reno News & Review*, originally published June 7, 2012.

This article may be read online at:

<http://www.newsreview.com/reno/content?oid=6231562>

Copyright ©2012 Chico Community Publishing, Inc.

Printed on 2012-06-11.

Letters for June 7, 2012

Stand, Forrest, stand

Re “Days of Our Lies” (Feature story, May 17):

I am the “Reno resident” who filed against Mark Amodעי citing the National Defense Authorization Act. Amodעי cites the following in the Act as upholding Constitutional protections for U.S. citizens: “The requirement to detain a person under military custody does not extend to citizens of the United States.”

OK, the requirement does not extend to citizens of the United States but the government is still allowed to detain U.S. citizens under the statute.

The president admits this in his signing statement, as he signed the bill: “Moreover, I want to clarify that my administration will not authorize the indefinite military detention without trial of American citizens. Indeed, I believe that doing so would break with our most important traditions and values as a nation.”

(So all he has to do to get around that statement is detain American citizens without trial with the Secret Service, right?)

President Obama now has a huge opportunity to right this wrong inflicted on the American nation and the Constitution. Federal judge Katherine Forrest ruled recently that the indefinite detention provision of the National Defense Authorization Act likely violates the First and Fifth Amendments of U.S. citizens. All President Obama has to do to regain the high ground on this issue is instruct his attorney general, Eric Holder, not to appeal Katherine Forrest’s ruling.

We are a swing county in a swing state in this election. I sincerely believe that we can make a difference if we speak up! Please contact the White House. Just Google “contact White House” and the website comes up with myriad ways to contact President Obama.

Please take the five minutes and defend our civil liberties!

Yes, I was on the ballot for District 2 for 10 days. I withdrew because I realized I lacked the resources to really run, and I like Xiomara Rodriguez, who shares my concern on this issue.

Erik Holland

Reno

Water power

Re "Dry spell" (Green, May 31):

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority has an *awesome* drought plan with the ability to provide regular service for years of low precipitation and is ready to deal with much worse than the worst drought on record through limiting service. The Southern Nevada Water Authority has a similar plan.

I would be willing to bet that the Nevada Drought Response Committee is less about drought preparedness and more about finding excuses to declare an emergency to get federal dollars.

Finally, please stop regurgitating fallacies about shorter showers saving water. All indoor use returns to the watershed. Only outdoor conservation matters to water. Sure, wasted water is wasted power, but the TMWA actually generates more power than it uses—renewably!

Scott Reimers
Reno

Paper tigers

I learned from my work with Greenpeace that KFC is using paper from Indonesia's rain forest through "Yum!" brand to package their tortured animal products and other fast food items. I am not happy about this, as an aware person, and I would love to see a story in the paper putting the pressure on the Reno demographic of KFC and its affiliates. Please help me and the Sumatran Tigers, as well as other endangered wildlife, to stop this unsustainable packaging through political pressure.

Christopher Henderson
Reno

Rewind, be kind

I would like to ask the people to look at the world for a moment and think of all the different cultures/races that exist. Can anyone tell me which of these has never been persecuted? Then look at all the religions of the world and which one of those has never been persecuted? Every race and religion has been persecuted. With this being said, is there any one race or religion that is any greater than the others? No! So what is the problem, people? Everyone has the same blood, organs and bones. Because of their culture or up-bringing, they most likely will understand things differently and see things differently, so why is this a bad thing? Why can't we learn from this and share our views and opinions and learn from each other rather than criticize? I have traveled to many third world countries, and it is so much fun to learn other cultures and gain an understanding from another view point. People get over your righteousness because if you were in charge you would be in charge from above. When it comes to religion, we all believe there is a higher good and how we reach that higher good varies with each religion, so again, what is the fuss all about? There is no religion that is superior to the others, so get over your religious greed. I am so tired of people using the racial/discrimination card. Hopefully this will be aired so some people who need a little historical insight can stop being naive and speaking from the hip.

Nicole Leanne

[print](#)

Lake Tahoe water level hits likely annual high

by [Associated Press](#)

06.07.12 - 12:00 am

RENO (AP) — The water level of Lake Tahoe hit what could be its high mark for the year after a dry winter and scant spring runoff.

A spattering of rain and snow early in the week nudged it a bit, and the lake's level was measured Tuesday at 6,227.66 feet above sea level — the highest it's likely to get this year before it begins to drop.

The picturesque lake that straddles the Nevada-California line in the Sierra Nevada likely will stay at its current level for a few days as inflow from melting snow keeps pace with the amount of water lost to evaporation.

But evaporation rates could soon exceed inflow under hot and windy conditions.

Lake Tahoe reached its pivot point nearly two months earlier than last year, when an epic winter layered the Sierra Nevada in drifts of snow that stuck around through a cool spring. In 2011, the lake didn't stop rising until Aug. 1, topping out at 6,228.42 feet in what was its sixth most impressive rise in over a century.

Not this year.

When winters are dry, Lake Tahoe reaches its maximum level early in the year.

© dailysparktribune.com 2012



Troublesome water weed poses unknown danger for the Truckee River

A troublesome water weed that has spread through Lake Tahoe for decades is now established along the length of the Truckee River, posing possible problems of unknown scope and scale.

From the outlet of the Tahoe City Dam to where the river flows into Pyramid Lake 116 miles downstream in the desert, anywhere the river's waters flow slowly enough Eurasian watermilfoil can be found, experts said.

"It goes all the way to the end of the river," said John Mosely, environmental director of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. "In every irrigation diversion, in every backwater, we can find it.

"It's a huge concern," Mosely said.

An exotic and aggressive invader, Eurasian watermilfoil is trouble. The weed crowds out native plants and takes away oxygen needed by fish. It can ruin boating and clog irrigation ditches, water intakes and pipes.

No one knows for sure when it first showed up in Lake Tahoe.

A good guess is that watermilfoil appeared in South Lake Tahoe's Tahoe Keys Marina – a place now thoroughly infested – sometime in the mid- to-late-1980s, said Lars Anderson, a scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture who has tracked the weed's spread since 1994.

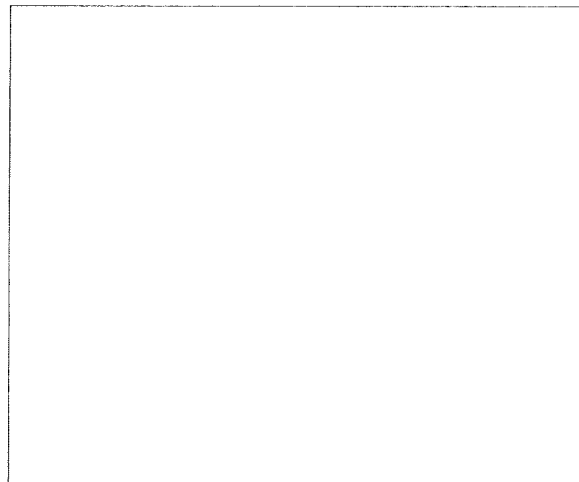
Spread by boats or as weed fragments carried by currents took root on the lake bottom, Eurasian watermilfoil can now be found in most of Tahoe's marinas and some other near-shore areas.

Established near the Tahoe City Dam, the weed may have escaped into an overflowing Truckee River during the flood of January 1997.

It was found growing in a quiet part of the river near Verdi a few years later and is now firmly established in the lower river near Pyramid Lake.

The weed has not yet posed any serious problems for the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, which draws the bulk of its

Advertisement



Print Powered By Format Dynamics



drinking water supplies from the river.

The utility's hydroelectric plants are located in parts of the river that flow too fast for the weed to grow.

Recent multimillion-dollar upgrades to the Highland Canal, which serves the area's primary drinking water treatment plant, substantially increased water velocity and diminished any threat, said Bill Hauck, water supply coordinator for the authority.

"We haven't had any problems yet. There's always that potential down the road," Hauck said.

The authority isn't waiting for problems to occur.

In 2010, it spent \$20,000 to help fund a project to study the potential of killing the weed in Truckee's Martis Creek Reservoir by covering it with fabric barriers and blocking sunlight.

Previous attempts to control the weed at the reservoir by mowing were unsuccessful and may have actually helped its spread, officials said.

Eurasian watermilfoil now covers roughly 80 percent of the reservoir's bottom.

So far, the experiment appears successful, said John Prettyman, spokesman for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is heading up the project.

"It's been slow but it's been successful,"

Prettyman said. "Without sunlight, it starts dying right away."

If bottom barriers offer some potential to control the weed in lakes and reservoirs, their use in flowing river water could prove problematic.

"It's much more difficult in a river. It's not as easy to put down a barrier," Mosley said.


The tribe is concerned the weed will have an increasing impact on slow-moving backwater habitat so important for fish, reptiles and amphibians -- potentially impacting efforts to recover the endangered cui-ui fish and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.

There's reason for concern, experts agree.

"It does alter the habitat pretty dramatically," Anderson said. "It can change habitat conditions by directing flow differently and causing (water) to heat up more quickly."

Advertisement



Print Powered By 

By 



Because the weed does have some saline tolerance, there's no reason to believe the salt-rich waters of Pyramid Lake are necessarily immune from danger, Anderson said.

"There's no reason that plant wouldn't make it and do well there," Anderson said.

If the weed poses ecological problems, it could for the region's tourism economy as well.

The slow-moving stretch of river just downstream of the Tahoe City Dam – very popular for summertime rafting – is the location of thickly growing mats of Eurasian watermilfoil.

"Certainly up in the first part of the river it's affecting recreational users whether they know it or not," said Sue Donaldson, a water quality and weed expert with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

"We have a lot of people trying to use the river now," Donaldson said. "If we start getting a lot of milfoil, it will be less attractive for people. It could impact our ability to sell Reno."

Advertisement



Print Powered By  Dynamics

Whether it's raining in June or dry in December, Truckee Meadows Water Authority always values responsible water use. That's why we encourage

Weather-Wise Watering.



Truckee Meadows Water Authority has workshops and tours to help you understand the Weather-Wise needs of your landscape throughout the seasons.

Join us for this upcoming event:

Adjusting & Repairing Your Irrigation System



Tuesday
JUNE 12

5:30 p.m. at TMWA,
1355 Capital Blvd.
Reno, NV

All workshops are free. Please RSVP to conservation@tmwa.com or 834-8005.

We are here to help.
For a schedule of more
workshops and tours and
other conservation tools, visit

www.tmwa.com



This message is brought to you by the water lovers at



TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER
AUTHORITY
www.tmwa.com

RN 3 R
4/7/12



Experts respond to worsening drought conditions across Nevada

Joe Ricci was worrying by January. Now he knows he's in trouble.

With drought conditions worsening day by day and the Carson River dropping steadily, the Dayton-area rancher expects he may be out of water in a couple of weeks or so. He's still hoping to harvest one good crop of hay, but once irrigation is halted and his cattle and sheep eat the last of the green grass, "it's gone."

Ricci's family has ranched the land for 100 years and he's seen wet and dry years come and go. This one stands out.

"I don't remember having to worry about water this early in the year. It's already tough to get water," said Ricci, 42. "I can't remember it ever drying up this soon."

Stories like Ricci's are now being sought out by experts trying to gauge the severity of a drought impacting each of Nevada's 17 counties to some degree.

How severe this drought becomes over the summer and how this drought year stacks up in comparison to others remains to be seen. Experts, however, agree the situation appears serious.

Cities like Reno, Sparks and Carson City are expected to make it through the summer with sufficient water supplies for municipal uses, with the Truckee Meadows prepared to weather a drought lasting years in duration.

But when it comes to agriculture, the environment and an off-the-charts risk for catastrophic wildfire, the drought of 2012 is already making itself strongly felt.

It started with a dry winter and significantly sub-par snowpack and has continued with slackening stream flows and steadily drying vegetation.

"This could be one of the drier years I've ever seen," said Ed James, general manager of the Carson River Subconservancy District and chairman of a state-appointed task force.

It was formed in late May to study drought-related issues in seven counties in northwestern Nevada, including Washoe.

Advertisement



Print Powered By  Dynamics

SEARCH

View All

June 7, 2012		12:06 PM EDT			
New York	London	Tokyo	DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
	Closed	Closed	12,513.71	2,853.24	1,322.71

Home News Viewer Markets Investing Personal Finance Industries Economy/Politics Trading Deck Jobs Log In Portfolio Alerts

press release
June 6, 2012, 3:30 p.m. EDT

Fitch to Take Various Actions on Truckee Meadows Water Authority (NV) Series 2006A & 2006B CP Notes



NEW YORK, Jun 06, 2012 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- On the effective date of June 8, 2012, Fitch Ratings will (i) confirm the 'F1' rating for the \$40,000,000 Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Nevada water revenue commercial paper notes, series 2006A (the 2006A notes), and (ii) upgrade the rating to 'F1+' from 'F1' for the \$40,000,000 Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Nevada water revenue commercial paper notes, series 2006B (the 2006B notes). The 'F1' rating for the series 2006A notes is based on the support provided by an irrevocable direct-pay letter of credit (LOC) issued by JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (JPM; rated 'A+/F1', Rating Watch Negative); the 'F1+' rating for the series 2006B notes is based on the support provided by an irrevocable direct-pay letter of credit (LOC) issued by Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (Wells Fargo, rated 'AA-/F1+', Stable Outlook).

The above rating actions are in connection with the replacement of the existing LOC covering both series of notes provided by Lloyds TSB Bank, plc (Lloyds; rated 'A/F1', Stable Outlook), acting through its New York Branch. The ratings on the 2006A notes and the 2006B notes will expire on the earlier of June 6, 2014, the expiration date of each LOC, unless such date is extended, or upon any prior termination of the related LOC.

U.S. Bank National Association, as the Issuing and Paying Agent (IPA) for both series of the notes, is directed to request an advance under the applicable LOC whenever proceeds of the sale of rollover notes are insufficient to pay maturing notes or in the event the IPA is in receipt of a final drawing notice. Each of the LOCs provide coverage for the principal amount of notes and 270 days of interest at 12% based upon a 365 day year.

All notes will be issued at par, with interest due at maturity. Following the occurrence of an event of default under the LOC, the applicable bank may (i) direct the IPA to immediately stop the issuance of any additional notes, (ii) reduce the stated amount of the LOC to cover outstanding principal and accrued interest to maturity of the notes, or (iii) direct a final drawing notice to cover outstanding principal and accrued interest to maturity of the notes.

The dealer for the series 2006A notes is J.P. Morgan Securities LLC; the dealer for the series 2006B notes is Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Additional information is available at www.fitchratings.com.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

--'U.S. Municipal Structured Finance Rating Criteria', Feb. 28, 2012,

--'Rating Guidelines for Commercial Paper Note Programs Issued with External Support', March 19, 2012.

Applicable Criteria and Related Research:

U.S. Municipal Structured Finance Criteria

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditedesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=672570

Rating Guidelines for Commercial Paper Note Programs Issued with External Support

http://www.fitchratings.com/creditedesk/reports/report_frame.cfm?rpt_id=674368

ALL FITCH CREDIT RATINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS. PLEASE READ THESE LIMITATIONS AND DISCLAIMERS BY

FOLLOWING THIS LINK: [HTTP://FITCHRATINGS.COM](http://FITCHRATINGS.COM)

/UNDERSTANDINGCREDITRATINGS. IN ADDITION, RATING DEFINITIONS AND THE TERMS OF USE OF SUCH RATINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE AGENCY'S PUBLIC

WEBSITE ' WWW.FITCHRATINGS.COM '. PUBLISHED RATINGS, CRITERIA AND

METHODOLOGIES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS SITE AT ALL TIMES. FITCH'S CODE

OF CONDUCT, CONFIDENTIALITY, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AFFILIATE FIREWALL.



1. **THERESE POLETTI'S TECH TALES**
Will Apple roll out iPhone 5 next week? Not likely

2.

INDICATIONS
Stock futures rise after China cut; Bernanke ahead

3.



SLIDE SHOW
The 10 best states to retire in

4.



DAVID CALLAWAY
Obama's following me; and the bull is back

5.

Spain sells 2.07B euros of bonds; tops target

A Better Value - Better Way to Trade

Lake Tahoe water level hits likely annual high

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 1:29 p.m.

RENO, Nev. — The water level of Lake Tahoe hit what could be its high mark for the year after a dry winter and scant spring runoff.

A spattering of rain and snow early in the week nudged it a bit, and the lake's level was measured Tuesday at 6,227.66 feet above sea level — the highest it's likely to get this year before it begins to drop.

"This very well may be the peak," Chad Blanchard, chief deputy water master, told the Reno Gazette-Journal (<http://on.rgj.com/L37vxY>).

The picturesque lake that straddles the Nevada-California line in the Sierra Nevada likely will stay at its current level for a few days as inflow from melting snow keeps pace with the amount of water lost to evaporation.

But evaporation rates could soon exceed inflow under hot and windy conditions.

"Then it will drop," Blanchard said. "The lake will start its long descent through the summer."

Lake Tahoe reached its pivot point nearly two months earlier than last year, when an epic winter layered the Sierra Nevada in drifts of snow that stuck around through a cool spring. In 2011, the lake didn't stop rising until Aug. 1, topping out at 6,228.42 feet in what was its sixth most impressive rise in over a century.

Not this year.

A sub-par winter ended with an April 1 snowpack at only a little more than half of where it usually is for that time of year. The snow's been melting since, and "there's very little left," Blanchard said.

When winters are dry, Lake Tahoe reaches its maximum level early in the year. In 1992, it topped out May 17 at 6,221.87 feet. During particularly wet years, rising doesn't stop until much later. In 1965, it didn't stop rising until Aug. 17 at 6,228.87 feet.

How much the lake drops over the course of the summer will be determined by weather conditions, but the lake will probably go down 2 feet or so, still staying roughly 2 feet above its natural rim.

When full to the maximum legal limit, 6 feet of water above the rim is stored by the dam at Tahoe City, Calif., for downstream use by Reno-Sparks and Nevada agriculture.

That means there is plenty of water for municipal use, said Bill Hauck, water supply coordinator of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. The area's primary water purveyor serves about 93,000 homes and businesses across the greater Reno-Sparks area.

"Our water supply is in really good shape," Hauck said. "We should have full river flows throughout the year and into next year."

Tahoe and Boca reservoirs combined store the bulk of water that flows down the Truckee River for local use. They are still at about 75 percent of capacity because of the hefty winter a year ago.

"It's not anything like last year," Hauck said of current conditions. "The snowpack and runoff are pretty meager compared to last year, but those reservoirs really save our bacon."

Information from: Reno Gazette-Journal, <http://www.rgj.com>

Copyright © 2012 PressDemocrat.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.



Lake Tahoe topping out two months earlier than 2011

Lake Tahoe likely reached its maximum level for the year Tuesday and will now start a steady drop in further evidence of a dry year.

Nudged up incrementally by Monday's rain and snow showers, Tahoe reached a level of 6,227.66 feet above sea level Tuesday. That's probably as high as it's going to get.

"This very well may be the peak," said Chad Blanchard, chief deputy water master.

The lake likely will stay at its current level for a few days or so as inflow from melting snow roughly equals the amount of water evaporating from the lake.

Once evaporation rates exceed inflow — and that could happen quickly, particularly under hot and windy conditions — things will change.

"Then it will drop," Blanchard said. "The lake will start its long descent through the summer."

The lake reached its pivot point nearly two months earlier than last year. An epic winter of 2010-11 layered the Sierra in drifts of snow that stuck around under the influence of a cool spring.

Tahoe didn't stop rising until Aug. 1, topping out at 6,228.42 feet in what was its sixth most impressive rise in over a century.

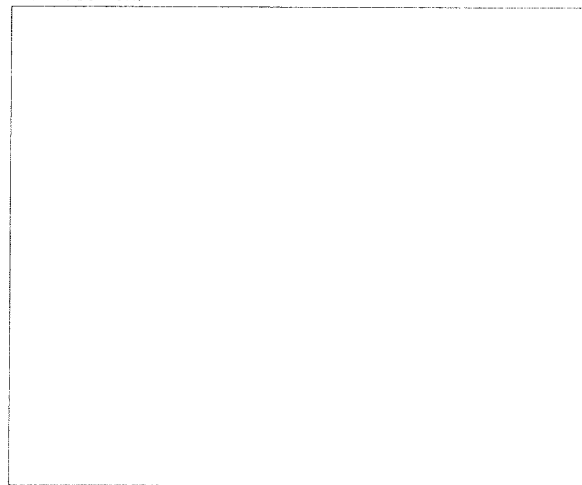
As stands to reason, the lake reaches its maximum level early during dry years such as 1992, when it topped out May 17 at 6,221.87 feet. During particularly wet years, rising doesn't stop until much later. In 1965, it didn't stop rising until Aug. 17 at 6,228.87 feet.

This year is definitely on the drier side. A sub-par winter ended with an April 1 snowpack at only a little more than half of where it should have been for that time of year. The snow's been melting since, and "there's very little left," Blanchard said.

The contrast to last year is dramatic.

"Last year was close to the latest I've ever seen it," Blanchard said. "Last year was about as late as it gets and this year was pretty darned early."

Advertisement



Next 11 years of dry...



How much the lake drops over the course of the summer will be determined by weather conditions, but the lake will probably go down 2 feet or so, still staying roughly 2 feet above its natural rim.

When full to the maximum legal limit, 6 feet of water above the rim are stored by the dam at Tahoe City for downstream use by Reno-Sparks and Nevada agriculture.

That means there is plenty of water for municipal use, said Bill Hauck, water supply coordinator of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority. The area's primary water purveyor serves about 93,000 homes and businesses across the greater Reno-Sparks area.

"Our water supply is in really good shape," Hauck said. "We should have full river flows throughout the year and into next year."

Tahoe and Boca reservoirs, which combined store the bulk of water that flows down the Truckee River for local use, are still at roughly 75 percent of capacity because of the strong winter of a year ago, Hauck said.

"It's not anything like last year," Hauck said of current conditions. "The snowpack and runoff are pretty meager compared to last year, but those reservoirs really save our bacon."

Tahoe's peak water levels

- 2002: June 25 at 6,225.10 feet
- 2003: June 17 at 6,224.89 feet
- 2004: June 14 at 6,224.30 feet
- 2005: July 18 at 6,225.58 feet
- 2006: July 10 at 6,229.03 feet
- 2007: June 6 at 6,227.61 feet
- 2008: June 2 at 6,225.48 feet
- 2009: June 18 at 6,224.61 feet
- 2010: July 9 at 6,224.65 feet
- 2011: Aug. 1 at 6,228.42 feet

Source: Federal Water Master's Office

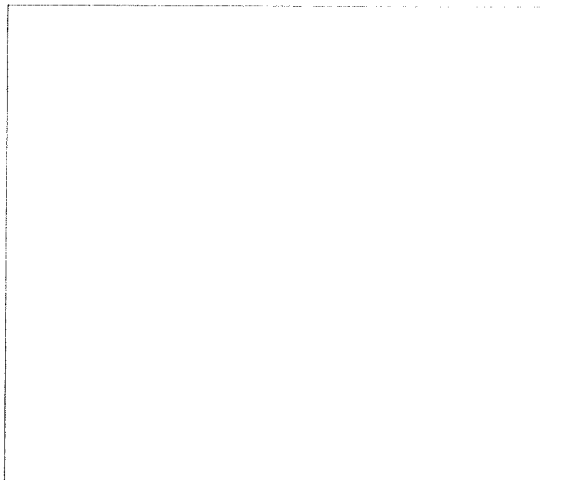
Water supply

- Despite a dry year that will have Lake Tahoe lowering nearly two months earlier than 2011, the big winter of a year ago brought sufficient water to ensure adequate water supplies for Reno-Sparks this summer.
- The Truckee Meadows Water Authority has plans to handle a drought nine years in duration, one year longer than the longest recorded from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s.

Source: Truckee Meadows Water Authority

More

Advertisement



Print Powered by [www.printdrive.com](#)



Other task forces were established to do the same for counties in central-eastern and southern Nevada.

On May 24, Washoe and 10 other counties were determined to be in a Stage 2, or severe drought condition.

Six other counties were found to be in less-severe drought conditions. By Wednesday, two of those counties – Lincoln and Nye – had joined the list in the severe category.

With a long, hot summer still weeks ahead of official arrival, input from the three task forces will determine later in the year if any counties need to be considered in a Stage 3 drought condition, or one of drought emergency, said Kate Berry, Nevada's acting climatologist.

Berry joined officials from the state Department of Emergency Management and Department of Water Resources in preparing a new state drought response plan, last updated in 2003.

"Drought is a local phenomenon. It's different in different places," Berry said. "This drought is so widespread. We need to figure out how things differ in a small town in Elko County from a big town in Clark County."

James' concern is focused on how the situation is developing in Washoe, Carson, Douglas, Storey, Lyon, Mineral and Churchill counties. He is scheduled to report to Berry and others in the statewide Drought Response Committee on June 15.

He's polling water purveyors, wildfire responders and ranchers and farmers, among others.

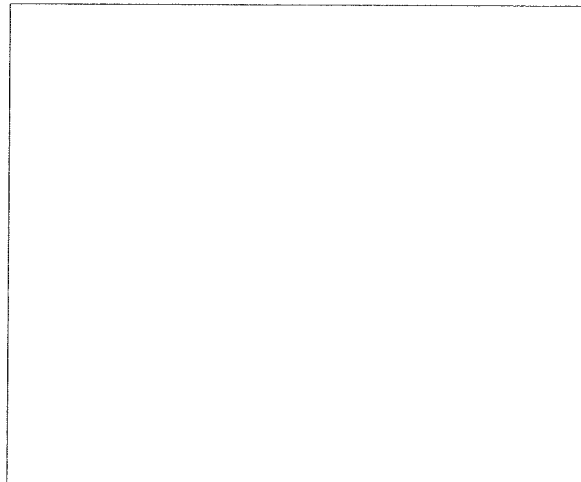
James is particularly concerned about impacts along the Carson River. Unlike the Truckee and Walker River systems, the Carson River has no significant reservoir storage in its upper watershed.

"We could be facing a very severe drought this year," James said, adding that he thinks it has the potential to rival 1977 in terms of severity.

Ricci couldn't agree more. He expects that before everything is said and done, he's going to have to sell off some of his livestock to cope with a worsening drought.

"It's definitely going to be tough," Ricci said. "If the water's not there, it's not there."

Advertisement



Print Powered by

Dynamics

Taking a New Trail

By Jeanie Erwin

From our earliest days we are encouraged to set goals, make plans, and aim for the stars. However, for all the time we spend defining our goals, aligning them with our values, and pursuing them, life has a way of bringing in unexpected obstacles and life-changing moments that set us on a new course.

In 2006, that moment came for Elizabeth Crook with a diagnosis of colorectal cancer. She had always led a healthy, active life and there was no known family history of the disease, so the news at the age of 42, was shocking. While that moment was the beginning of an uphill battle, it sparked awareness and helped save the lives of some of the most important people to her.

At the strong urging of Elizabeth's doctor, her immediate family had colonoscopies as well. The procedure for one sister discovered multiple precancerous polyps that wouldn't have been discovered for years. Her mother, who had always had the shorter sigmoidoscopy procedure that never revealed any problems, had her first colonoscopy. The procedure revealed a benign tumor, which could have caused a life-threatening blockage, and she had to have her ascending colon removed.

"Despite what I was going through, my diagnosis helped my mom and sister," she explained. "That was very significant for me; it gave it more of a purpose." After the diagnosis, surgery to remove the cancer with a low anterior resection was performed. Her doctor warned that she may need a temporary colostome for a few months until she had a chance to heal, but he determined she didn't need one, since the procedure went so well.

She left the hospital after five days to recover at home, but soon experienced a growing pain and found that the incision was not healing well. "My doctor was out of town, so I called the Post-Surgery Hotline," she stated. When the pain became so intolerable that she could barely walk, her mom, who flew in for the surgery, took her to an on-call doctor who determined the body was reacting normally to the major surgery and stated that it would take time to heal.

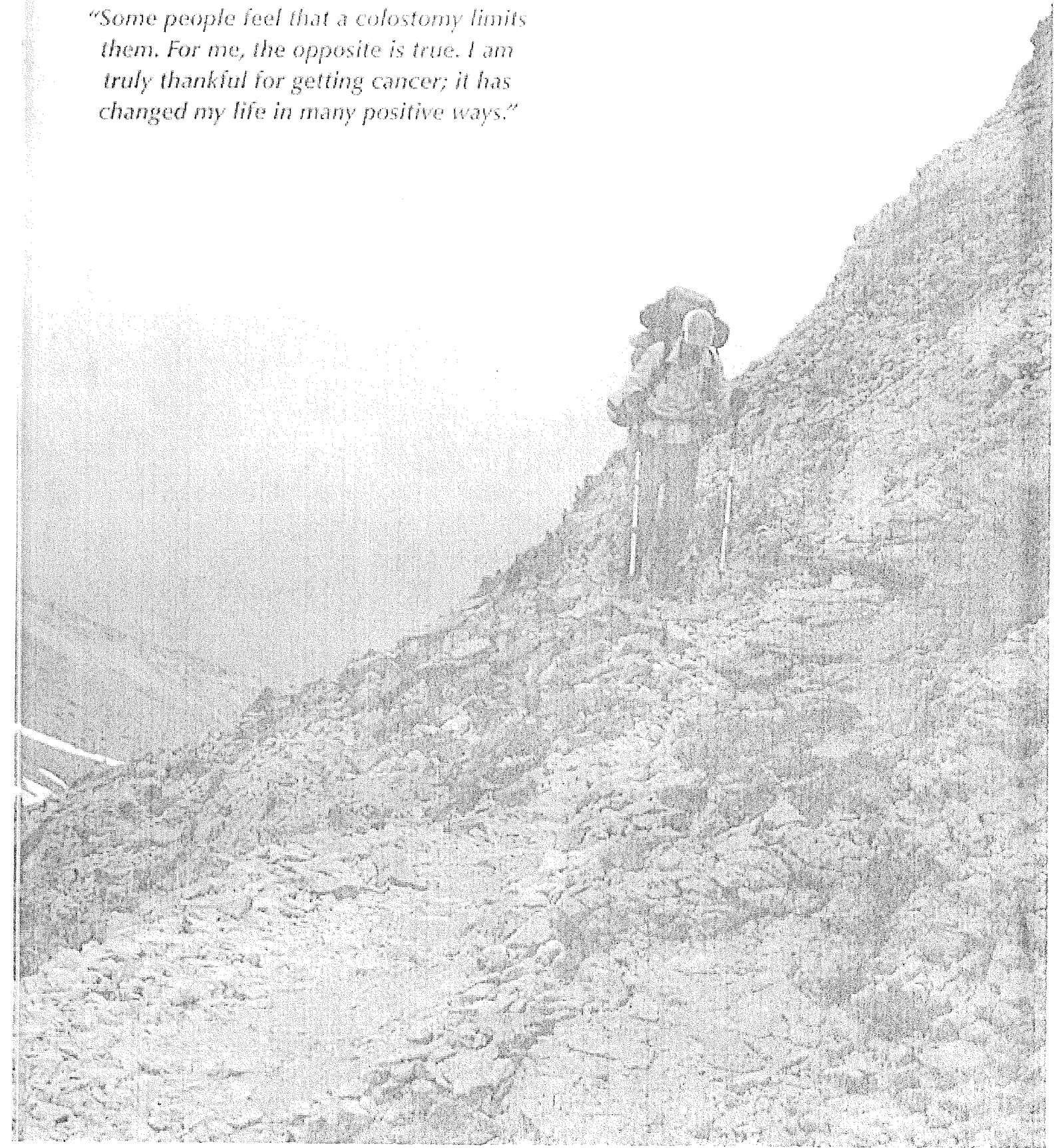
Her mom flew home the next day, but her symptoms continued to get worse and she became weaker. A few days passed when a friend's mom, a nurse, told Elizabeth that her symptoms weren't normal and to call her doctor, who was back in town.

"Jen was instrumental in getting me back into the hospital. I was going to wait two more days for my

an employee @ FMAA



"Some people feel that a colostomy limits them. For me, the opposite is true. I am truly thankful for getting cancer; it has changed my life in many positive ways."





follow-up appointment, but found out afterwards I didn't have two days — my body was at the beginning stages of shutting down." The resection had "blown apart" and she was septic. The situation was much more serious than Elizabeth had time to realize. She needed emergency surgery to repair her colon and remove any waste material in her abdominal cavity.

Shortly after awakening from the surgery, she remembers hearing her heart monitor going off and the garbled chatter of the staff. When she awoke again, thinking it was the next day, her sister informed her an entire week had passed. That was when she found out that it was impossible to repair the damage to the colon and she now had a permanent colostomy.

No Time for Tears

Two major surgeries back to back left Elizabeth with little time to adjust to the colostomy, or even go through many of the emotions she may have otherwise; it was all about making it to the next goal. "So much was going on that I wasn't thinking about how a colostomy would change my life," recalls Elizabeth. "The nurses were doing something to me every few hours, so I put my head in the sand about the colostomy. I focused on recovering and getting out of the hospital."

Her desire to leave the hospital was so strong that she poured everything into that goal. "I was allowed on a new small goal. I had an eight inch incision on my abdomen that was kept open with packing material, and tubes coming out of everywhere, including a PICC line in my neck. It was a struggle to move, let alone get out of bed to walk, but I knew I needed to get my

strength back, and I splined!

I had tears, but I concentrated on getting healthy again. As difficult as the recovery was, I never gave up to be alive and have the opportunity to have my uphill battle. "My surgeon said that I was very lucky to have been in the same room as one of the medical professionals. He said it was doubtful I would have survived. Recovery from the first six months surgery was not easy, and the process was physically and emotionally exhausting."

"I was slowly getting back on my back when, six months later, I had a procedure leading to another surgery," she said. "In all, I have had four prolapses, the first two occurring about six months apart, the next two about a year apart. I've had seven surgeries over a three-year period," recalls Elizabeth.

The last two surgeries occurred in April of 2010: a total hysterectomy to remove a mass on her ovaries and the fourth colostomy revision. She endured two severe urinary tract infections due to ureteral stents being inserted to prevent the tubes from collapsing to one side of the scar tissue.

"Those were difficult times. The day after surgery when I was just tired of fighting back from surgery to surgery but I still tried to stay positive. Elizabeth chose to view the colostomy as just a new normal, and she determined to not let anything stop her from enjoying life."

There was still a lot of work ahead, so Elizabeth decided to do a little bit of the same old work she had done before surgery.

The next page of Elizabeth's story will be in the March 2011 issue of The Phoenix. Elizabeth's story is available at www.phoenixmagazine.com about a month before the next issue.

she did was back in Alaska, of course, a dream vacation she finally took the time to enjoy. "It was the best vacation of my life. It was beautiful, but most importantly, it inspired and restored me."

Back to Nature

Prior to getting the cancer diagnosis, Elizabeth's active life included a little backpacking and hiking, which she thoroughly enjoyed, but life and work had largely removed her from that hobby. However, having a colostomy didn't knock it back into her life.

"Some people feel that a colostomy limits them. For me, the opposite is true. I am truly thankful for getting cancer. It has changed my life in many positive ways. I have a different perspective about life and people. I've always had a passion for nature, but now I make sure I get outdoors because it feeds my soul," she explains.

The colostomy didn't make a lot of a challenge, but Elizabeth challenged it. Her first hike was a 14-mile trip with friends Brent and Corine to Mount Tallac, a peak on the west of Lake Tahoe. The hike, which begins at 6,540 feet and climbs to 9,700 ft., once inspired voices to those who are willing to take on the strenuous venture.

"Though it wasn't easy, the challenge reinvigorated me. I took longer than most people, but I did it. I made it to the summit with their encouragement and patience," she says of the 9.5-mile round-trip hike. "It made me want to get outdoors even more."

Birth of an Idea

Her first backpacking trip with a colostomy was to Desolation Wilderness, a 100-mile, 14-day hike she took with her friend Brent. Although the conditions presented fewer problems on the hike than she remembered, one problem did persist. Out of necessity, the weight of the backpack rested on her shoulders rather than her waist, where it properly belonged. Since her stoma is located in line with her waist strap on the back, it was impossible to reach it properly, so she always went up to use the toilet.

She knew that wasn't going to work in future excursions. Before the next trip she arranged to find different materials, but resorted to stitching foam to the waist belt on both sides of the pack to create a gap. Then she, Brent and Corine went on a two-day, 23-mile trip in Yosemite from Tuolumne Meadows to Return Creek.

"The foam wouldn't stay in place under the weight of the pack and the movement of hiking in different terrain. Brent and Corine ended up taking some of my gear on the way back. A lighter my pack, which helped tremendously," recalled Elizabeth.

It was, however, only a minor disappointment. I knew that Brent and I would figure it out. That much setback wasn't going to stop me, she firmly asserted. Indeed, it didn't. Soon, she and Brent were back developing a solution. She described what she thought would work to Brent as he drew it out and ultimately figured out what materials to use and how to make it. She probably modified it a little to make it better.

Elizabeth called it "the Bungee" (the idea of using the backpack's waist strap with a bungee over the top) while allowing it to be cinched tightly and secured. It freed her to enjoy the outdoors like a pro or her dad and she decided to try a 100-mile hike in Clear Forks Wilderness, which is a section of the volcanic Cascade Mountain Range in southwestern Washington.

"Brent was backpacking the state of Washington starting from Canada and I thought, why not meet up with him for the last part of the trip? The last part of their hike was gorgeous weather, the last part of their hike was plagued by rain and she and Brent spent 10 hours in a small hut, staying wet, waiting for it to stop, but it ended."

"We had to put on wet socks and wet pants, so the next morning so we could keep going, I probably ended the trip at the end town to avoid getting someone possibly injured."

"I set out to hike 100 miles in the Clear Forks Wilderness border. I'm serious for 30. Brent and I went about 40 miles in that part, described the conditions and had had the trip almost two days, and after the hike over the Clear Forks I was done. Seriously, she said. Elizabeth recalled.

"This hike along the Pacific coast in the Mt. Rainier region was absolutely breathtaking. As I was hiking along a trail that had turned into a running creek, I kept thinking that this state wouldn't be as beautiful without all of the rain. I was extremely thankful for the opportunity to experience it and I owe a lot to Brent for an engaging me to do it."

"Carrying Great Sticks with a 37-pound backpack was my limit of physical accomplishment and effort in my childhood, but as soon as I get back, I'm sad being out there in spite of the rain. Being physically compelled that let me know that I can do anything I set my mind to do, so many times, we have ourselves come out of an abusive condition, when in fact, our only limit comes from our own thoughts."

"Many people get their custom made shoes, but a custom only creates a challenge, not a real boot, so figure out how to get a custom sole for your feet, so the boot is comfortable."

The Bible has been of such help to her, so please to make it available to others. I would love to have added to it a very practical Bible for all those who, without it, hope to be able to put the bridge out there for others, you explain, adding, "It has helped write me ready for their dream that would not be possible."

The Value of Support

According to Elizabeth, the celestine gifted her many things, one of them was the affirmation of support from family and friends, who played an important and selfless role in her recovery. In different ways, they all showed me the support and love I needed. For instance, my sister took a lot of time off work to be with me in the hospital and her best friend, Aww, often came when her family couldn't be there.

After the second emergency, my mother and I went to my mother and told her she needed to be home. Then when they got the next message, another time, one of our coworkers, Toni and Heather, called to check up on her and found her in the car, so they went to her to get her and then rushed her to the hospital.

My coworkers at Prichard Medical Center at work are the best. They showed me support, respect, and care, and concern throughout everything and they were just so fully generous it was overwhelming, very powerful. Elizabeth shares,

"From July 21, months after I was diagnosed with cancer, my sister Leslie was diagnosed with stage three lymphoma and had to go through extremely harsh rounds of chemotherapy. Ten years prior to that, her sister Jim was diagnosed with glioma at cancer.

Oddly, our cancers aren't related, but they were all found in the same region of the body. We have been through a lot, but we have been through it together. We get our strength and courage from each other, we have a bond that's unbreakable. The love and gratitude I have for them runs deep in my soul. I love you all."

Her father died of a massive heart attack when he was 52 and she was 12. It rocked Elizabeth's world, but the lessons she learned helped her gain perspective on dealing with cancer. Although she may not be able to change the cards she's been dealt, making the most out of the journey is her career.

No matter how difficult it was, or how much I was in pain, these sorrows, I know that there are more out there, others will have a harder time, worse than I will. I have gone through it, and going through it, finally, I have others, we lost bit of advice, but may not have complete control over your physical situation, but you do have complete control over your attitude and how you lead a life. Cancer may have taken my mom, but I've gained so much more in return." 🙏

Whether it's raining in June or dry in December, Truckee Meadows Water Authority always values responsible water use. That's why we encourage **Weather-Wise Watering.**

Run your sprinklers Weather-Wisely on your assigned days.



A green rounded rectangle contains the text "Assigned-Day Watering" in white. Above the rectangle are seven circular buttons for the days of the week: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. Below the rectangle are two circular buttons: Even and Odd.

Shut your sprinklers off between noon and 6 p.m. from Memorial Day through Labor Day.



This message is brought to you by the water lovers at



Edible Reno-Tahoe
6/1/12

Whether it's raining in June or dry in December, Truckee Meadows Water Authority always values responsible water use. That's why we encourage

Weather-Wise Watering.



Proper tree care begins with proper drip irrigation and Weather-Wise Watering to build a deep, strong root system.



truckee meadows
COMMUNITY
FORESTRY
COALITION

The Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition provides you with resources to properly care for your trees, using the weather as your guide.

For a wealth of Weather-Wise tree care tips and a list of trees for our high-desert climate visit

www.communityforestry.org

This message is brought
to you by the water lovers at



TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER

AUTHORITY

www.tma.com

RN 712
5/31/12

Whether it's raining in June or dry in December, Truckee Meadows Water Authority always values responsible water use. That's why we encourage

Weather-Wise Watering.



Assigned-Day Watering only applies to your sprinklers. Run your sprinklers when it's cool and not windy, usually early in the morning. Turn them off when it's raining.

Water Weather-Wisely on your assigned days.



Assigned-Day Watering

Even

Odd

Also, give your sprinklers a rest on Mondays, as it is TMWA's day to replenish and maintain our water system.

For more on your assigned days and other conservation tools, visit

www.tmwa.com

RVB/R
5/24/12



Will winter with below-average snowpack lead to low river flows?

As the temperatures rise, kayaks, fishing poles, bathing suits and rafts begin to make their seasonal appearances across the Reno-Tahoe region.

The drier-than-average winter will carry over into the spring and summer, and, as a result, water-based recreational activities will look different than they did last year, experts say.

The California Department of Water Resources conducted its final snow survey of 2012 on May 1 off Highway 50 near Echo Summit. It showed the snowpack was at 40 percent of normal for that date. After last season's wet and extended winter in 2011, the statewide snowpack on May 1 was 190 percent of normal.

Last year, the peak runoff for the Truckee River was June 15. This year it was April 27. At its peak last year, the Truckee River at Farad along I-80 ran at 3,100 cubic feet per second, according to the National Weather Service. This year, it was 1,620.

The less water content the region sees during the winter months, the less runoff it receives when temperatures heat up.

"The peak was twice as much last year. Last year was very long and extended because of the weather, and there was so much snow that kept melting and the precipitation kept coming and adding to the snowpack," said Chad Blanchard, chief deputy water master for the U.S. District Court Water Master's office. "Definitely an extremely different year this year from last year. We are basically done with the runoff."

The higher-than-average snowpack and runoff last year allowed for extra water to be stored in area reservoirs. While overall flows will be lower this year compared to last, rivers with upstream storage areas — such as the Truckee River — will stay consistent. Where the difference will be apparent is on those rivers that don't have an upstream storage source, such as the East Fork of the Carson River. Those rivers will see a much shorter season compared to last year.

"This was an extremely dry year, and last year was an extremely wet year. Neither of

Advertisement



Print Powered By Format Dynamics



them are typical," Blanchard said. "Although there is really no typical."

Out on the river

Last year's fast flows and cold temperatures created dangerous conditions for river users early in the season.

"A bigger snowpack isn't necessarily better than a small one since a huge snowpack may result in flows on the more popular rivers that are very high," said Chris Shackleton of www.Dreamflows.com, a site that gathers real-time and daily flow reports for rivers and streams in the Western U.S. "Most of the season then consists of super high flows, that transition through good to low flows in a very short period of time. There have been exceptions, but, in general, a medium snowpack is preferable."

That is not to say that this year's lower flows won't affect water-based activities. Commercial rafting companies and groups that depend on the river are used to adjusting to the varied flow from year to year, as are kayakers that enjoy the Truckee River Whitewater Park in downtown Reno.

"When the whitewater park was built originally, it was designed so that at many different water levels, there are still lots of things to do," said Bauserman Group's Betsy McDonald, director of media for the Reno River Festival, which is June 14-16. "We have moved holes a couple of times

over the past nine years to accommodate water levels. We are lucky that we can move it around and it still makes for good competition."

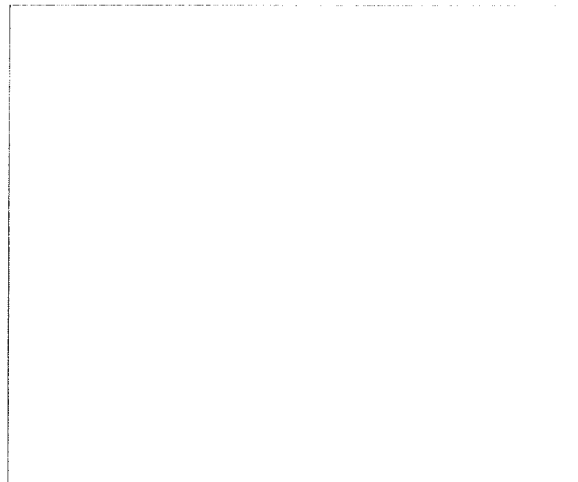
Where the late runoff last year led to unprecedented fishing conditions in the fall, the slower but more consistent runoff this spring has led to good early season fishing conditions for anglers.

"We probably haven't seen this healthy of a river in quite some time. It is peaking now due to some really consistent water years, and the fish have been very successful in growing," said Chris Vasey of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. "This year, we are going to be fishing from the benefits of the years before. The fish that are in there now are really quality fish."

While all seems to be well now, next year could be problematic if there's another dry winter.

"Next year, if we have another dry year, there could be some issues," Blanchard

Advertisement



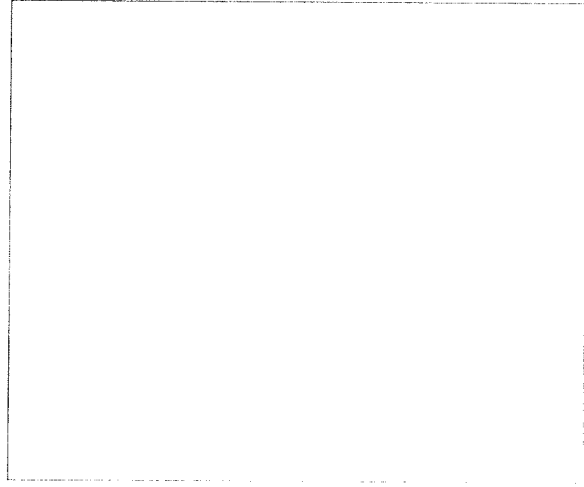
Print Powered By www.printpage.com



said.

“The difference for us this year is that a lack of new storage will possibly affect us next year depending on the winter.”

Advertisement



Print News Item

Truckee Watercraft Inspection Program enters third season

MAY, 17 2012
SPECIAL TO THE SUN

TRUCKEE, Calif. – The Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD) will again manage the Truckee Area Watercraft Inspection Program for 2012. Entering its third season, Truckee area inspections and boater education on aquatic invasive species (AIS) will take place at Donner Lake and Boca, Prosser and Stampede reservoirs late May through September. Current funding for Truckee Area watercraft inspections and outreach has been provided by the Truckee River Fund.

“The program was well-received in 2010 and 2011, and we look forward to providing boaters with information and free inspections and decontaminations again in 2012,” said Teresa Crimmens, program coordinator for the Truckee Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (TRAISSPP).

Boat inspections are the front line to prevent the introduction of AIS, as boats and other motorized watercraft are the largest vectors for spreading AIS into new water bodies. Boaters are encouraged to “clean, drain and dry” their watercraft prior to launching into new water bodies. Free decontaminations will be available for high-risk vessels wishing to launch at Truckee area water bodies. These will occur at Alpine Meadows Transportation Station parking lot, off Highway 89 and Northstar-at-Tahoe Castle Peak parking lot, off Highway 267.

Inspections are voluntary but highly recommended to avoid the spread of AIS, such as quagga and zebra mussels and New Zealand mudsnails, which pose a significant threat to Truckee/Tahoe area water bodies and local economies. Quagga and zebra mussels are especially problematic, as they are known to multiply quickly and colonize underwater surfaces, including docks and piers, water supply and filtration systems, buoys, moored boats and even the shoreline. They destroy fish habitat, ruin boat engines, and can negatively impact water quality, recreation and the ecosystem. The inspection program is critical to preventing the spread of AIS into Truckee area water bodies.

During 2011 Tahoe RCD inspectors logged more than 7,700 boater interactions, including both inspections and opportunities for boater education on AIS. According to surveys completed during 2011 inspections, 85 percent of boat owners agree inspections are an important component in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Through the 2011 stakeholder-driven process, the Tahoe RCD and Truckee River Watershed Council have gauged community support and identified the programmatic steps for implementation of a mandatory prevention program in the Truckee region. “A mandatory inspection program is a crucial element in preventing the introduction of aquatic invasive species,” said Kim Boyd, Invasive Species & Biological Resources program manager for Tahoe RCD.

Tahoe RCD, the Truckee River Watershed Council and the Truckee-Tahoe community will continue to work with local policy-makers in 2012 toward the implementation of a mandatory program in Truckee.

For more information, program updates and announcements visit TruckeeBoatInspections.com or contact Teresa Crimmens at 530-587-4911.

For information about the Tahoe Resource Conservation District contact Pete Brumis at 530-543-1501 or pbrumis@TahoeRCD.org.

– Submitted to aedgett@sierrasun.com

Las Vegas Sun

Officials seek boater help curbing invasive mussel

The Associated Press

Monday, May 21, 2012 | 12:25 p.m.

Researchers who have documented a nearly tenfold increase in quagga mussels in Lake Mead since 2007 say they need help from boaters to keep the invasive species from spreading.

Scientists from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are asking the nearly 5,000 boaters expected to visit the lake over Memorial Day weekend to make sure that their watercraft is cleaned and dried properly.

"Many visitors will be from California and other surrounding states, and if we don't do a good job of decontaminating boats, the mussels are going to end up everywhere and very quickly," said UNLV researcher David Wong, an expert on invasive freshwater species. "We have found that some mussel babies could survive on a boat out of water for as long as 27 days. They can survive many conditions. Many people just don't realize how resilient these mussels are."

UNLV researchers estimate that Lake Mead hosts more than 1.5 trillion adult quagga mussels, which are about the size of a dime, and 320 trillion microscopic baby quagga mussels.

The mussels, which cling to boats and pipes and reproduce rapidly in the lake's warm waters, can severely disrupt the ecosystem.

Researchers don't know exactly how the mussels arrived at Lake Mead, where they were discovered in 2007. But they speculate they came from a boater from the Great Lakes region, where quagga mussels have been proliferating for more than 20 years.

To remove the mussels and avoid cross-contamination, Wong recommends that boaters start by hosing off their vessel with tap water after spending time on the lake. If a boat has been sitting in a marina or out on the water for more than two weeks, it should be decontaminated with hot, pressurized water.

Officials say boats should be drained of any standing water and then dried for two to three days before entering other bodies of water.

Locally owned and independent since 1950; Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, best news website in the nation & DuPont Award for broadcast journalism


© Las Vegas Sun, 2012, All Rights Reserved

Officials consider pesticides to fight invasive species

Monday, May 14, 2012

Tags:

[lake tahoe](#), [assignment 7](#)

- [Comment Now](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Report a typo](#)
- 



LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (KGO) -- The State Water Resources Control Board is confronting a major controversy Tuesday: whether to allow pesticide use in Lake Tahoe. Some believe it will save the lake from being choked to death by invasive species, while others say it could destroy an environmental treasure.

The lake supports a \$5 billion economy and a stunning natural eco-system. But all the beauty is facing a growing underwater threat -- plants and animals that are not supposed to be there.

There are about 20 invasive species in Tahoe, crowding out native species and changing the chemistry of the water.

Related Content

[link: Proposed new rule for pesticide use in Lake Tahoe \(PDF\)](#)

[link: Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board](#)

[link: Tahoe Water Suppliers Association](#)

[link: California Watershed Network](#)

[link: Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force](#)

One invasive weed is Eurasian watermilfoil. It creates an underwater jungle that clouds the famously clear water and gets tangled in boat propellers.

The worst infestation is in the Tahoe Keys, a private community with man-made lagoons that feed into the lake.

Harry Dotson is part of a homeowners group there.

"We remove approximately 5,000 cubic yards of weeds every year," Dotson said. "The total cost of that operation is about a quarter of a million dollars per year."

One way to control invasive species could be pesticides. But Tahoe has some of the strictest environmental

rules in the nation. The only pesticide allowed is for mosquito control in stagnant ponds that surround the lake.

No poison is allowed directly in Tahoe -- at least not yet. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board now wants to permit pesticides as a last resort.

"The idea is to apply them in a manner that's very focused and then the products do break down," board spokesperson Lauri Kemper said.

Under the new rules, pesticides could be used only if non-chemical methods are not effective.

Many environmentalists don't like it.

"We're very concerned with poisoning Lake Tahoe," California Watershed Network spokesperson Laurel Ames said. "There's really no way to control liquid poison in a lake. It's going to move. There's just no way they can keep it in one specific spot."

The 12 agencies that provide drinking water from Lake Tahoe are also fighting to keep pesticides out.

"Currently there is no treatment for us to be able to get that stuff out of the water once it gets in: so what we would prefer is that it stays out to begin with," Tahoe Water Suppliers Association spokesperson Greg Reed said.

The regional water board says there are no immediate plans to use pesticides in Tahoe, but they need regulations in place just in case. They've joined other Tahoe agencies in a task force to find non-chemical solutions for invasive species.

"The goal of this project is really to make it so we don't have to use pesticides," environmental scientist Dan Sussman said.

The task force is now working on an experiment in Tahoe's Emerald Bay. They put rubber mats on the bottom of the lake to smother invasive Asian clams. It's still too early to know how well it worked.

Back at Tahoe Keys, mats on the bottom of the lagoon might also fight milfoil, but homeowners are skeptical.

"You know you are just talking millions and millions of dollars to do that," Dotson said.

Dotson thinks pesticides are the most viable answer and points out they're used in many other lakes.

But Lake Tahoe is an "outstanding national resource water" -- a legal status that gives it very special protection.

That protection will be tested Tuesday when the state water board votes on the pesticide plan. If they approve it, it would still have to get the final go ahead from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Written and produced by Jennifer Olney

(Copyright ©2012 KGO-TV/DT. All Rights Reserved.)

OUR OPINION

**TMWA OFFERS ANOTHER MODEL
FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Twelve years ago, the Reno and Sparks city councils and Washoe County Commission joined forces quickly and with little dissent to buy the power company's water division. It has been one of the community's most successful endeavors, protecting the valuable water resource with financial integrity. If they can do it for water, they can do it for fire protection. **Editorial, page 2E.**

VOICES

THE OPINION OF THE RGJ EDITORIAL BOARD



Artist Ray Valdez works on a mural at the newly modernized water diversion facility at the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Glendale treatment plant. DAVID S. PARKER/REG FILE

Reno, county have shown they can work together

It often doesn't seem like it, but it is possible for officials in Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to work together.

If they truly believe that the long-term solution to the Truckee Meadows' fire-protection problems is to create a single fire department, they can do it.

As was explained on this page on April 22, REMSA (the Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority) offers an example of one route toward that goal. In the mid-'80s, ambulance services in Reno, Sparks were privately owned and in chaos.

Area governments appointed a blue-ribbon commission that guided the creation of what has become one of the most successful agencies in the valley, one that is professional, medically based, efficient and effective.

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority offers another model.

In 2000, Sierra Pacific Resources (now NV Energy) decided to divest itself of the water company that had provided water to the two cities for many years and asked for bids. There was little time, but Reno, Sparks and Washoe County hoped to keep the water company from being sold to another private entity (a company based in France was said to be the primary bidder). They came together quickly and developed what was ultimately the winning bid.

On one Saturday in 2000, the Reno and Sparks city councils and Washoe County Commission met, one after the other, to approve the purchase and begin

SNAPSHOT

ISSUE: Fire protection

OUR VIEW: The Truckee Meadows Water Authority, like REMSA, can serve as a model for creating a single professional, effective and efficient fire department for Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

the creation of TMWA with little dissent.

For the customers in the Truckee Meadows, they made the right decision.

The utility they bought had been starved of capital investment — water main breaks were common — and they had to take on debt to make the purchase. That debt reached junk status over the years, but this year was upgraded to investment grade by rating agencies thanks to smart, conservative financial management over the past 12 years. At the same time, the system has been significantly upgraded and modernized.

TMWA also has been able to ease the annual worries about water shortages. Despite the below-average precipitation this past winter, water supplies are more than adequate because of upstream storage and conservation by customers. One reason is that nearly all water users now pay metered rates instead of the flat rate that offered no incentive for saving water. Another is that the long-delayed agreement among users of water from the Truckee River has allowed TMWA to store enough water to cope with a nine-year drought.

The next step will be to merge Washoe County's water department into the authority. That's a critical long-term goal that will allow better planning for the limited supply of water and ensure that everyone in the area is working with the same rules. That merger, which will benefit customers of both TMWA and Washoe County, seemed impossible 10 years ago; now it's a near-certainty.

TMWA's operations are overseen by a board made up of elected officials from the three governments — three from Reno, which has the largest number of water customers; two from Sparks and two from Washoe County. The board has worked well.

According to Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, who is one of the members of TMWA board, Reno and Washoe County officials were, in fact, close to approving a similar arrangement for a new joint powers agreement to oversee their combined fire departments earlier this year. Regrettably, that plan fell apart, and the decade-old merge of the Reno Fire Department and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection Authority is scheduled to end on June 30 as officials from both continue to point fingers and complain about each other's actions.

The break-up needn't happen. Local officials have shown several times — REMSA and TMWA, are prime examples — that they can work together to benefit all residents. If they can do it for ambulances and water, they surely can do it for fire protection, too.

Back

MEMBER CENTER: Create Account | Log In

SITE SEARCH

WEB SEARCH BY

Go



Truckee Meadows Trees Facing a Deadly Challenge

Posted: May 10, 2012 2:36 PM PDT

Updated: May 10, 2012 2:36 PM PDT

John Potter

Channel 2 News

For 30 years, certified arborist Dale Carlon has been pampering trees, although he and the trees did not get along in the beginning of his career. As he told us, "I fell out of a tree." A 40-foot fall that broke his back, legs and arm. Dale told us, "While lying in the hospital, I decided I wanted to learn how to do this right."



Too often we overlook these masters of the plant universe, but can you picture our town without them? And that's why we came out to meet Dale. He says our trees in northern Nevada are facing a big challenge.

At the corner of Vista and N. Los Altos we met one lonely tree, only 5 years old... and already doomed. As Dale showed us, "This is an example of a tree who's stakes have been left on too long...the diameter is almost the same as the base as it is halfway up the tree. So when the wire is finally taken off, it can't support itself."

New trees are typically staked and wire-supported to give them a stable start. But after a year, the wire ties on new trees should be removed. Dale thinks it's been 5 years for this little guy. Left on so long, they are cutting into the bark. As he told us, "Once these cells have deformed in this style, they'll never come back."

Dale says everywhere he looks, he sees trees dying. Just around the corner in this shopping

center, Dale finds another young victim, strangled by neglect. "That interrupts the flow of water and nutrients to the tree." The tree next to it provides a night and day contrast. Planted at the same time, but properly maintained with ties removed, and strong...huge compared to our troubled tree.

How big of a problem is this? "It's pretty extensive, John. Quite frankly, it's more common on commercial properties than private properties."

Before he goes, Dale loosens the tree's ties...for whoever owns it.

Dale says, stake new trees for a year at most. You can even take them out a bit early to get a stronger plant that can sway and learn to get tough in the wind. The Truckee Meadows Community Forestry Coalition is a great place to learn more. Here's the link:

<http://communityforestry.org/>



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2012 WorldNow and Sarkes Tarzian, Inc. All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [EEO Report](#). EEO Report Forms: [Form 1](#), [Form 2](#). Organizations can request to be notified of all KTVN job openings. Please