

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- **Tough Mudder Tahoe** is June 11-12 at Northstar. Go **online** for more info.

- The International Association of Firefighters Association Local No. 2139, North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District, along with Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District's Local No. 3895 donated \$5,000 to the Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation to be distributed among five families with children affected by cancer to help pay for medical expenses, travel expenses related to treatment and household living expenses.

- North Tahoe Public Utility District has hired Lake Tahoe resident and civil engineer Stephen Twomey as project engineer and construction manager.

- The 17th annual Best of Tahoe Chefs food and wine fundraiser for the Gene Upshaw Memorial Tahoe Forest Cancer Center is May 15 starting at 4:30pm at the Ritz-Carlton, Lake Tahoe. For more info, go **online**.

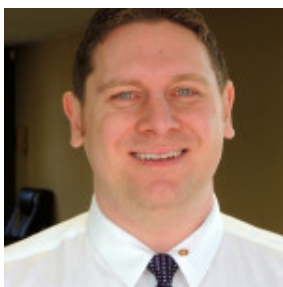
- Coaches are needed for the **Junior Giants** baseball program in South Lake Tahoe; call Lauren Thomaselli at 530.542.6197.

Money matters: Cash management key to financing opportunities

By Nic Abelow

For many business owners, taking their company to the next level of growth is an exhilarating but stressful task. Deciding on a growth strategy – which areas of the business to fund, what pace of growth to aim for, whether investments should be allocated to short-term or longer-term needs – is just half of the equation. The other equally critical part of the process is finding a funding source for their growth plan.

Focus on cash flow



Nic Abelow

Among the many criteria that banks and other financiers use to assess the creditworthiness of a business, cash flow – or the business's ability to generate enough cash to service its debt, pay taxes and dividends, and make the down payment associated with any capital expenditures – often tops the list.

Other related factors that financiers typically look for include:

- Prudent levels of debt and/or adequate capitalization

- Positive trends in the company's balance sheet and income statement
- Management's experience and track record of success
- Its industry – how it is performing and projections for the future.

Needs-based financing options

When banks are the chief lender, the range of financing options is fairly broad, from lines of credit and term loans to real estate mortgages and Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs. To a large extent, the needs of the business will determine the type of financing option that is most appropriate. For instance, if a company has modest or stable growth, its short-term working capital, equipment, and real estate needs typically can be met with traditional bank credit products, such as lines of credit or term loans. For short-term needs, such as financing a temporary increase in inventory, a line of credit would be indicated. For longer-term uses, such as funding the purchase of equipment or real estate, term loans generally will fit the bill.

If, on the other hand, a company is experiencing rapid growth, the solution may be to move outside of traditional bank products to asset-based lenders and/or SBA government programs.

Funding caveats

Keep in mind that many lenders tend to avoid requests for financing that appear to be speculative in nature. For instance, if a business wants to expand its warehouse space to accommodate new inventory that it thinks it can sell but doesn't actually have customers waiting to buy, that would be considered a speculative financing request. Another might be a request for funding to increase inventory in the short-term on the hunch that the business can make a quick profit by market

timing.

Other “red flags” that could bring a funding request to an abrupt halt with a prospective lender include inadequate liquidity to service all cash needs (e.g., principal payments, taxes, and rent/mortgage), excessive debt, and an inconsistent earnings history.

Keep in mind that even though these or other caveats may put a funding request in jeopardy, with proper explanation and/or documentation, it is possible for such hurdles to be overcome. If, for example, a company lost money last year due to non-recurring expenses but presents legitimate reasons for the loss, it is possible that the lender may still consider the business owner’s request.

It has been said before, but it bears repeating: Cash management is the key to starting and running – and growing – a business. To manage cash effectively, you need to anticipate future cash needs and then ensure that you have the liquidity when you need it. A financial plan with revenue and expense projections is an invaluable tool in managing this essential part of a business.

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

Volunteer to help improve Grover Hot Springs Park

On April 16, California State Parks Foundation will host its 18th annual Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup at 27 state

parks across California, including Grover Hot Springs in Markleeville.

More than 3,000 volunteers are needed to help with environmental improvement projects statewide.

Since its inception in 1998, CSPF's Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup program has resulted in 81,670 participants contributing more than 334,300 volunteer hours, worth nearly \$6.39 million in park maintenance and improvements. Additionally, nearly \$5 million has been raised to support the Earth Day program.

At Grover Hot Springs State Park volunteers will work on maintenance and development of the native plant demonstration garden. Check in is at 10am and work will be until 2pm.

To register, contact Hannah Drummond at awg.hannahd@gmail.com.

EDC supes side with developer, not residents



This is a rendering of Dollar General that will face Main Street in Georgetown, though there is no entrance here.

"Like sex on an elevator, this project is wrong on so many levels."

—Ron Sheckler, engineer

By Joann Eisenbrandt

PLACERVILLE – The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors chambers was filled April 5 with residents of Georgetown and surrounding communities who had come to show their disapproval of the project that would allow construction of a Dollar General store on Main Street in downtown Georgetown.

They left even more frustrated after the board voted 4-1 to allow the store to move in.

Who is Dollar General?

Dollar General is a national chain offering lower-priced general merchandise and groceries in thousands of stores throughout the country, many of them situated in small rural communities like Georgetown. Their proposal to construct a 9,100 square-foot store on three combined parcels on Main Street reached the final step in the county approval process Tuesday. It was originally approved at staff level by El Dorado County Development Services Director Roger Trout. That approval was appealed to the Planning Commission. When the Planning Commission denied the appeal, that decision was appealed to the Board of Supervisors.

Does it fit in historic Georgetown?

There are several distinct layers to this controversial project. First, as evidenced by the impassioned pleas of residents to the board this week, is the appropriateness of the project at the proposed location. Georgetown is a historic former mining community located in one of the county's Rural

Centers between Placerville and Auburn. Board-adopted Historic Design Guidelines say that new buildings in historic areas such as Georgetown should “generally conform to the types of architecture prevalent in the gold mining areas of California during the period of 1850 to 1910.”

County planning staff found that the Dollar General project did “substantially conform to the HDG and would be compatible with the surrounding residential, community, park, and commercial uses within the Georgetown Main Street commercial area.” Dollar General responded to citizen concerns about the building design, changing it a number of times.

For many in Georgetown, however, that wasn’t enough. Dave Souza, of the Georgetown Preservation Society, who filed the appeal of the Planning Commission’s approval of the project, expressed the view of many when he said, “Put it somewhere else, just not on Main Street.”

One area resident characterized the design changes this way: “It’s like putting lipstick on a pig.”

At 9,100 square feet, the building is almost twice the size of the largest building in the area, the Georgetown Post Office located directly behind the site. The remainder of Main Street is dotted with a mix of historic buildings and residences from the Gold Rush era.

May Harms of Garden Valley said emphatically, “We don’t want Dollar General housed in its fake Gold Rush building.”

Because of its size the building had to be configured with its public entrance on the side of the building, unlike other existing buildings that open directly onto Main Street. A loading dock, trash enclosure and truck turnaround area will face Main Street.

Janie Johnston expressed the concern that, “many residents might not realize that we will be looking at a loading area

and a trash collection area.”

Speakers told the board this project would forever alter the historic Gold Rush ambience and character of Georgetown; those things that make it a special place to live and which draw tourists to come and visit. Kat Mendenhall, an active member of what’s known as the Divide community, acknowledged that Georgetown has struggled economically but felt Dollar General would not be a positive economic addition. She told the supervisors, “People don’t come here to see what is new. They come here to see what is old.”

A number of speakers referenced the generations-long residency of their families in the area. “It’s a matter of the heart. The project may be legal, but for all the commenters it’s like stabbing all their relatives in the heart,” Ken Deibert of Garden Valley told the board.

Another tearful commenter said, “It would break my heart if this went into our town.”

Economic impacts of the project

Sabrina Teller, an attorney from Remy, Moose, Manley who represents the project applicant Simon CRE, pointed to economic studies done by Dollar General that showed it will be an economic boost to the community, saying, “It won’t (negatively) affect the economy of the community.” Seven to 10 full- and/or part-time jobs will be created.

Leon Alevantis, who owns the historic Schmeder House and American River Inn properties directly across Main Street from the proposed site, disagreed, saying these properties will be most affected. His home and others in the area are currently being used as residences, but are actually zoned commercial.

“My property would have to be changed to commercial (use) because I could no longer use it as residential,” he said, adding, “This is probably the best looking Dollar General in

the country, but the footprint is not consistent with the size of the surrounding historic buildings.”

The only speaker during the public comment portion of the meeting that spoke in favor of the project was El Dorado County Chamber CEO Laurel Brent-Bumb.

“Dollar General is trying to make the project fit into the surrounding area,” she told the board. “It provides new opportunities for the community – jobs and the availability of products.”

An audience member responded vocally to Brent-Bumb’s comments, “Do you own property in Georgetown?”

Environmental issues

In addition to the emotional “compatibility” issue, there is a second, more technical layer. Were the environmental impacts of this project adequately examined and were sufficient mitigation measures proposed for such impacts that would reduce them to “less than significant”? The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lays out the requirements for studying the environmental impacts of projects. The more significant the potential impacts, the more complex environmental documentation that is required. The county prepared a mitigated negative declaration saying that environmental impacts were reviewed and all of them could be reduced to “less than significant” through a variety of mitigation measures.

If such impacts cannot be reduced to insignificance, then CEQA requires that a more intensive environmental impact report be prepared. At the beginning of the meeting, Trout addressed this question saying that that county staff believes all CEQA questions had been adequately addressed and that everything was “done appropriately.” He recommended that the board adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration and mitigation measures, the mitigation monitoring program and deny the appeal. (The

entire Dollar General project approval process is explained in more detail in [put in link to former article here](#) if you want.)

While CEQA does not address economic impacts of a project per se, it does address the environmental consequences if negative economic impacts of a project then lead to actual blight such as empty abandoned buildings.

Carolyn O'Conner told the supervisors, "It's ludicrous for you to rubber stamp this blight in that beautiful area. It will bring down property values. It's imperative to consider that we don't want it. Take into consideration what we think should be done."

Ron Sheckler, who filed an earlier complaint with the federal EPA Wetlands Division and a complaint with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, stated that the size of the wetlands was inaccurately described in the mitigated negative declaration, being larger than the size allowed for an automatic exemption. Wetlands on the property will be filled in as part of the project. They drain from the property into Empire Creek, which then drains into the American River. Sheckler, an engineer, who also contacted the California State Division of Mines and Geology, raised concerns about a mine ventilation shaft that opens just outside the property line, but which might lead to other mining tunnels underneath the property. He asked for a mine engineering study to be done to determine exactly what is underneath the property.

Ed Hawkins referenced the water that runs through the property which he says the county documents referred to as "storm water," but which is actually part of Empire Creek. In addition to concerns over excessive runoff from the large roof and the additional impervious surface of the parking lot, Hawkins noted that under the project design, sewer effluent will be dripping into the soil just feet above the creek. He asked the board to come down on "the side of caution" and

require a full EIR to analyze this and all the other potential environmental impacts.

The adequacy of the septic system was brought up at earlier meetings on the project and was raised again on April 5. Sue Taylor of Save Our County pointed to the fact that the project requires an advanced septic system. Taylor added that Greg Stanton, county Environmental Health Division director, had said the proposed system had not yet been approved and she thought that if the project is approved now, it will be a violation of General Plan requirements. Stanton told the board that effluent will be distributed by a drip irrigation field and, "will be disposed of properly and is a cleaner effluent." The county will monitor the system once a year.

Ron Crone, former postmaster of the Georgetown Post Office, noted that when the post office was moved to its current site in the mid-1980s a full EIR was required. "They found that the wetlands were a possible red-legged frog habitat, which is a federally-protected endangered species." The post office, he added, "Had to put in a mound waste system with no leach lines. I can't understand how this (Dollar General) septic would comply." The mine ventilation shaft was also addressed in the post office EIR. Crone believes it was "part of the Woodside Mine. I think some of the shafts go under Dollar General."

The board reviews the process

Following the public comment session, the board asked questions of staff regarding the process that led up to this point. District 2 Supervisor Shiva Frentzen asked, "What standards are we using for approving this project?" Frentzen expressed her concerns over the possibility of extensive mining tunnels under the property. "We need to dig deeper into that issue," she said, "An EIR would address those concerns."

District 5 Supervisor Sue Novasel asked Roger Trout four

questions: Does the project violate CEQA? Does the project violate the General Plan or the Zoning Ordinance? Have all the comments to the project been addressed? Did (Planning Commissioner Brian) Shinault have a conflict of interest?

Shinault, an architect, assisted the project proponent with the redesign of part of the building roofline, which the latest appeal termed a "conflict of interest." Trout answered no to all four questions.

Novasel responded, "The emotional testimony is different than what the appeal is about. It is about the technical issues."

Board chairman Supervisor Ron Mikulaco of District 1 asked Trout to go over the entire county approval and subsequent appeals process. Following Trout's explanation, Mikulaco said, "This (project) was contemplated as part of the 2004 General Plan. (The site) is zoned commercial ... this is a commercial project and I'll look at it that way. I'm not a social engineer." Mikulaco later added, "Right now there are three empty lots with nothing there. If we denied this, there's going to be nothing there on one of the few commercial properties in the area. If you deny this, in 10 years you will still have nothing."

Almost as one, the audience responded, "That's fine with us."

The last supervisor to speak was District 4 Supervisor Michael Ranalli. Georgetown is located in District 4. Ranalli asked project proponents a series of pointed questions he said "need to be asked and answered even if they are outside the scope of our decision." "Why is Dollar General proposing this site," Ranalli asked Sabrina Teller. "How did we get to this point? What role did government play?"

Teller responded that she didn't represent Dollar General, but represents "the buyer that will be the landlord for Dollar General. I am a CEQA attorney." Teller did note, however, that Dollar General saw an "untapped economic niche and demand,"

adding that Dollar General “is not a Dollar Tree. It’s not a trinket store. It’s a grocery store.”

Ranalli noted that the location was selected as early as 2012. Asked later by *Lake Tahoe News* if the process could have been stopped sooner before Dollar General became so “invested,” he responded, “Only if prior policymakers knew it was being contemplated. I was sworn in in January 2015, and Dollar General already had a contract for the property and had done all their environmental reports. Policymakers wouldn’t have known until an application was actually given to planning.” Ranalli asked Deputy County Counsel David Livingston about the option of a new location.

“Do we have the latitude to require them to move?” Livingston replied, “The short answer is no ... if (the project) is consistent with the General Plan, it is not for you to play favorites on who uses the site.”

Asked if the applicant would consider doing a full EIR, Teller responded, “No, we won’t voluntarily do one. The documents show that nothing more than the mitigated negative declaration is required.”

The board decision

Supervisor Novasel commented that she was “comfortable with the design,” and moved approval of the project and denial of the appeal. District 3 Supervisor Brian Veerkamp seconded the motion. Supervisor Frentzen commented, “I don’t see a single person here to support this including the Divide chamber. We need to bring tax dollars, but this could also put smaller stores out of business and will totally change the environment of the small community. There are some areas where you need to honor the locals.”

Novasel’s motion passed 4-1 with Frentzen voting no.

After the meeting, many present expressed surprise that

Ranalli had not “stood up for Georgetown” and joined Frentzen in voting no. Ranalli later told *Lake Tahoe News*, “I believe we are facing a lawsuit on either side. I swore to follow the law. In my research I found legal precedents that say a county can’t arbitrarily exclude a specific retail store. I could have hidden behind three other votes and copped out, but I didn’t. I am proud of them standing up for their community. I didn’t think (voting no) was the right thing to do based on the information they gave us. If I had guessed wrong, I would have obligated the citizens of the county to a lawsuit with a national firm. Most everybody said we don’t want it here, but based on the law that’s not a legal defense.”

Those not satisfied with the board’s decision have 30 days from the filing of a notice of determination to file a lawsuit based on the project’s specific failures to meet CEQA requirements.

Area reservoirs filling up after wet winter

By Paul Nelson, KTVN-TV

Thanks to a wet winter, the area’s reservoirs are beginning to see a rise in water levels. Sierra snowpack numbers are average and higher in most of Nevada. Now that the temperatures have warmed up, some of that snow is beginning to flow into the reservoirs.

“We’re doing much better than we have,” Chad Blanchard, U.S. District Court Water Master said. “We’ve stored quite a bit of

water, already, and that will just continue.”

Stampede Reservoir had more than 20,000 acre-feet of water, when the reservoir bottomed out. Today, it has about 65,000 acre-feet, rising nearly 6 inches since Sunday. One of the main reasons for the increase is the high amount of natural runoff, which was 230 percent of normal in March.

Blanchard says Boca Reservoir will get back up to natural levels, this year. The elevated water levels are already being noticed by campers and fisherman, including Matt Heron.

Read the whole story

Kindergarten registration to begin in LTUSD

Kindergarten registration for next school year begins in May for Lake Tahoe Unified School District.

For kindergarten, kids must be 5 by Sept. 1, 2016. For transitional K the child must turn 5 between Sept. 2-Dec. 2, 2016. This is a two-year program at Tahoe Valley Elementary School.

Registration is May 2-6.

California Law require:

1. The child's birth certificate.
2. Proof of immunizations, which includes the Varicella (Chicken Pox), Hepatitis B and for most children – the last booster shot. Children will not be enrolled in school without presenting an up-to-date immunization record.

3. A health examination upon entry to school.
4. An oral health examination upon entry to school.
5. Proof of California residency.

Call the school for an appointment:

Bijou Community School 530.543.2337; Sierra House Elementary 530.543.2327; Tahoe Valley Elementary 530.543-2350.

Youth sought for spring basketball program

Players are being sought for a spring basketball team.

The South Shore program is in its inaugural season. Elevation Elite provides an advanced level of competition, skills and training.

Sessions run now through June 18. Grades 3-8, boys and girls may compete. There will be three evening practices a week at local gyms and five weekends of tournaments.

Cost is \$275, which includes tournament entry fees and uniform.

For more info, contact Joby Cefalu at joby@elevationelite.net or David Finnegan at david@elevationelite.net.

Air pollution a silent killer – here and worldwide



Smoke from fires outside the Tahoe basin is an uncontrollable source of air pollution. Photo/LTN file

By Linda Fine Conaboy

RENO – “What you can’t see can kill you” was part of the message delivered this week by an expert in air pollution.

“Our air quality depends on the time of year. During wildfires and winter inversions, it’s awful,” Heather Holmes, an assistant professor in the Departments of Physics and Atmospheric Sciences at UNR, said April 3 during a talk the Galena Creek Visitor Center.



Heather Holmes

In the West, forest fires are a prime source of air pollution. In Reno and in Salt Lake City where Holmes earned her master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Utah, temperature inversions, especially in the winter, can wreak havoc as they have their way with the air people breathe.

However, she said Reno is a poster child compared to some cities in Asia—think Beijing and Shanghai.

Holmes became fascinated by indoor and urban air pollution led her to conduct studies with others along the Mexican border in the town of Nogales, as well as in Bangladesh.

In Mexico, the team of researchers studied the effects of cooking indoors on wood burning stoves.

“Basically, in Mexico, we did surveys asking people about their health and quantifying the air pollution levels indoors. We found that children in Nogales had increased rates of asthma,” Holmes said.

But because of little medical care, the undiagnosed asthma was chalked up to repeated, simple colds, she said.

Having that experience led her to Bangladesh, a country of nearly 170 million, where she combined forces with another professor doing water studies. They built an investigative team that was intent upon learning even more about the harmful effects indoor cooking has on humans, especially women, who in Bangladesh do most of the familial food preparation.

They found that these women suffered appalling health, almost as if they smoked cigarettes. It's easy to see why considering their fuel sources include cow dung, trash loaded with chemicals, plastics, tires and whatever else they can find to burn.

More than 4 million Bangladeshis die each year from exposure to indoor air pollution, and using spirometers, instruments necessary to measure lung function, the team found that as the air quality got worse, lung function decreased.

Globally, Holmes said, the fact remains that the largest environmental risk factor is pollution.

The United States is not without its inherent pollutants, and now people are becoming aware of them. In Washoe County, pollutants that are measured at various sites within the county including at Lake Tahoe include:

- Particulate matter such as dust, soot and unburned fuel suspended in the air. Sources can be wood stoves, industry, construction, street sand and open burning.
- Sulfur dioxide, a gas that is invisible and has a nasty, sharp smell. Volcanoes and fossil fuel combustion produce sulfur dioxide, but according to Holmes, about 99 percent of the sulfur dioxide in air comes from human sources. It can worsen respiratory disease and can aggravate existing heart disease.
- Nitrogen oxides, poisonous gases that can be sourced from fossil fuels and industrial equipment. They are harmful to the lungs.
- Carbon monoxide, an odorless gas emitted from combustion. Sources include cars, wood stoves, open burning and industry. Can cause dizziness, headaches, nausea and in high doses, death.

- Ozone. Can be caused by autos, power plants and industry. Ozone can be the source of irritated eyes, noses, respiratory systems and throats. Especially bad for people with chronic heart and lung disease.

- Relative humidity, wind direction, wind speed and ambient temperature are also measured by Washoe County and help determine amounts of pollutants in the air.

Since wood stoves can be sources of pollution, Washoe and El Dorado counties have a wood stove exchange and rebate program.

Go **online**, type in a ZIP code to find out what is happening air quality-wise in that location. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration site also have information. During fires websites for the counties in the Tahoe basin and surrounding region often have air quality information that lists health advisories.

Opinion: Fantasy sports is the same as gambling

By Timothy Fong

I not only play fantasy sports; I study them. Fantasy sports are online games in which people assemble virtual teams of real-life players and compete against other virtual teams based on statistical performances.

While money is often involved, these games are not seen as gambling by the federal and most state governments. But for me, an addiction psychiatrist who co-directs UCLA's Gambling Studies Program, it has become harder to tell the difference.

Last year, I was one of 50 million people who played fantasy sports; I spent Thanksgiving playing daily fantasy football. My son and I opened an account on one of two major companies that organize daily fantasy—a fast-paced and hugely popular version of fantasy sports that squeezes online competition into a single day as opposed to an entire season. An entry fee of \$50 allowed me to assemble a team of NFL players and pit them against the roster of another anonymous user. The website compared our players' stats side-by-side in real-time, and awarded \$90 (\$50 from him, \$50 from me, and \$10 to the website) to the team that had the most points at the end of the day's games.

My desire to win surprised me. Every time one of my players did well, I felt a rush of excitement. Every time one of my opponent's players did well, I felt a pang of frustration. As the games wound down and it became clear I would lose \$50, I felt unsatisfied—not at the idea of losing money, but at the idea of losing to someone I didn't know.

This daily version of fantasy sports rapidly emerged in American popular culture last year, in part through a \$250 million advertising push. The companies, which include DraftKings and FanDuel, aren't regulated like traditional forms of gambling, and the companies argue that they shouldn't be, on the grounds that they're games of skill. But in recent months, some states have moved to classify daily fantasy sports as gambling, arguing that they're actually games of chance.

The week after Thanksgiving, I played a second round of games because I had money left over in my account. I played against another faceless avatar, and lost. My opponent and I coincidentally had chosen almost the exact same roster (had I been able to see his roster ahead of time, I would have picked other players). He won because his tight end caught a touchdown, and mine did not. He lucked into picking the right guy on the right day.

The season-long version of fantasy sports never feels this random. Those games are measured, nuanced, and definitive, and the winner earns victory by outmaneuvering the rest of the league. I've played season-long fantasy sports for more than 20 years. There are nine people in my baseball league, and it's always the same three who fight for the top and the same three who finish at the bottom.

In daily fantasy sports, players wager money on an event of uncertain outcome in the hopes of winning more money. That feels like gambling, because that's the essence of the gambling experience. The layouts of daily fantasy sports websites look exactly like online poker and Internet sports gambling websites, with slick graphics and tantalizing promises of big wins.

Gambling is meant to be recreation. And for most people who do it, it's a diversion, an escape. I remember the first bet I ever made, a losing \$20 wager that the Chicago Cubs would win the 1993 World Series. I lost, but it imprinted in me the experience of a wager—the anticipation, the excitement, the optimism, the denial, and ultimately the acceptance of defeat. Gambling disorder, meanwhile, is a psychiatric condition that affects 2 percent of the population. It's characterized by addiction: continued gambling despite harmful consequences, even after defeat.

Daily fantasy sports websites are anonymous, easy to access, and even easier to hide. Anyone could place thousands of dollars at risk with a click of the mouse, and no one close to them would know. This is where the risk to develop addiction is highest. There is no maximum amount of money to be lost, and there are no consumer protections.

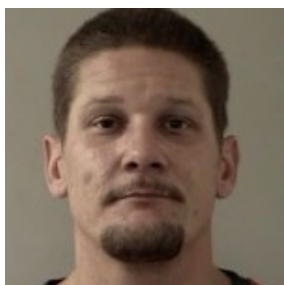
Today, my daily fantasy sports account sits at \$49, with enticements like "deposit more" and "get back in the game." Every once in a while, I'll log on to see what games are being offered. But the draw for me to play is low. I know I won't

enjoy the experience. Besides, the NFL season is over and I need to get my fantasy baseball team in order.

Timothy Fong is an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he co-directs the UCLA Gambling Studies Program. He is a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan.

DA: King Fire suspect may plead guilty

Arson suspect Wayne Allen Huntsman, 38, is expected to change his not guilty plea this week, according to El Dorado County district attorney officials.



Wayne Allen
Huntsman

Huntsman is accused of starting the September 2014 King Fire that burned 97,700 acres, mostly in El Dorado County. It started near Pollock Pines and burned for 27 days.

Huntsman is scheduled to be in El Dorado County Superior Court in Placerville on April 8.

He remains in the Placerville jail. Bail is set at \$10 million for each of three arson counts.

A grand jury indictment accuses Huntsman of arson of forestland with five special allegations of arson with aggravating factors. This includes causing great bodily injury because a firefighter was hurt, and an enhancement because of the 12 houses and 68 outbuildings that were destroyed at a loss of \$6.5 million.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*