

Nev. GOP will back Trump if he is the nominee

By Megan Messerly, Las Vegas Sun

Across the country, Republican politicians have begun distancing themselves from their party's presidential front-runner, Donald Trump, for fear of what a Trump nomination might mean for Republicans' down-ballot chances. Not in Nevada.

Many of Nevada's top politicians have pledged to stand behind the party should Trump be selected as the nominee. Gov. Brian Sandoval; Reps. Joe Heck, Crescent Hardy and Mark Amodei; and Sen. Dean Heller all have said they would support the GOP nominee, whomever that may be.

That's not an endorsement: Hardy and Heller support Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, and Heck and Sandoval haven't endorsed anyone, although Sandoval caucused for Rubio. But Nevada politicians appear hesitant to break with the pack. If the party chooses Trump, Trump for president they'll be.

Read the whole story

CHP officer hit near Donner Summit dies

By CBS-13



Nathan Taylor

A California Highway Patrol officer who underwent surgery after being struck by a vehicle on Interstate 80 on Saturday has died.

Traffic came to a halt at around 2:30pm west of Castle Peak after Officer Nathan Taylor of Gold Run, who was wrapping up work from a prior accident, was struck by an SUV .

“Most other officers had already cleared that accident; he was there just providing traffic control as they waiting for tow truck ,” said Officer Pete Mann.

Read the whole story

Kings Beach spiffing up area with banners

The North Tahoe Business Association has established a program to hang banners on the new streetlights in the Kings Beach commercial core along Highway 28.

The purpose is to create a sense of community and place by promoting local activities and events.

NTBA will review and grant permission for banner installations. The streetlights and banner poles are owned by

Placer County, which has issued an encroachment permit to NTBA. The banners will be installed and removed by a local contractor.

The design, manufacture and cost of banners, as well as the cost of banner installation/removal are the responsibility of the banner applicant. For more information and the application, go **online**.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Rosie

Rosie is a 1-year-old pit bull-Lab mix. She likes other dogs, and would like to meet yours before going home with them. She has lived with small children and was very gentle with them.

She was surrendered because her owner lost their home.

Rosie is a smart girl and would love to go to training classes.

Rosie is spayed, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services

shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

EDC supervisors say no to extra road dollars

By Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County roads won't be getting any extra money this summer based on a 3-2 vote last month.

The Board of Supervisors agenda item read: "Chief Administrative Office recommending the Board receive and file the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Mid-Year report and provide any direction related to the Fiscal Year 2016/17 budget."

And while the board tried to give direction about roads, acting CAO Larry Combs said, "I would not recommend your board giving me that direction." He said this after admitting to not having reviewed the budget and needing more than \$50 million for the new sheriff's building in Placerville.

(Combs works part time and lives in Auburn.)

Ultimately, the majority of the board agreed with him.

The minutes from Feb. 23 read: "A motion was made by Supervisor [Shiva] Frentzen, seconded by Supervisor [Ron] Mikulaco to direct staff to: 1) Provide the Board with a 5-year budget projection; and 2) Provide the Road Fund with 2 million dollars from the General Fund. Motion Failed. Yes: 2 – Mikulaco and Frentzen Noes: 3 – [Brian] Veerkamp, [Michael] Ranalli and [Sue] Novasel Received and Filed – No Formal Action Taken."

Back in September, Combs got the board to agree to only use road fund money for streets starting with the 2016-17 budget and not supplement it with General Fund dollars as had been the practice of the last 15 years. He gave no reason why. This fiscal year \$500,000 is coming from the General Fund for roads. Black Bart on the outskirts of South Lake Tahoe is one road slated for improvements.

Lack of road funding in favor of staff salaries is one of the reasons all five electeds are being recalled. While the discussion at the meeting sounded like most of the supervisors were in favor of increased road funding, that did not occur.

Novasel told her colleagues the roads are particularly bad in Tahoe this year with winter having returned. Pot holes are so large it's like being on an obstacle course in some locations.

Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News* that while she supports funding for roads, that without a clear strategic plan and five-year budget forecast she doesn't believe taking money out of the General Fund without knowing the consequences is the correct thing to do. She said she wanted to be able to look at the big picture and not piecemeal the budget together.

With that said, though, it is the electeds' responsibility to set policy and give direction to the CAO – not the other way around. However, as a rule this board takes direction instead of gives it.

In the county's midyear budget report it states that the road budget is starting off with \$8.7 million less than expected, in large part because the state pass throughs were less than predicted. Road maintenance money in large part comes from the state in the form of gas tax sales. With vehicles being more efficient, that revenue source has been declining for years. Other state and local revenue streams make up the road maintenance fund.

Laura Schwartz with the chief administrator's office said the budget is structurally balanced for the next three years – which legally it must be. Still, the county does not do long-term forecasting. The fiscal year starts July 1, though final numbers for that year are not solidified until October after the state has allocated its funding.

The county is projecting property taxes to grow by 4 percent per year. This last year it was just more than 5 percent.

Sales tax projections have been reduced to 2 percent growth to compensate for the reduction in what is collected from gas sales based on price of fuel going down.

Schwartz said, "There will be no new programs or staff without an outside funding source." Even so, salaries and benefits are expected to increase 4 percent.

There will be a budget workshop in June. The document is usually released near Memorial Day.

Opinion: Graffiti destroying

national landmarks

By Marjorie “Slim” Woodruff, High Country News

The Coconino sandstone at Grand Canyon means many things to many people. To the hiker, it indicates that he or she is almost at the top. To the artist, it is a graceful sweep of sculptured stone, and to the geologist, it evokes the trade winds blowing across Aeolian dunes 265 million years ago. But to the graffiti punk, it is a blank canvas.

It's a snap to scratch names, drawings and dates into sandstone. Fortunately, most of the time it is easy to erase the same, using water, a scrub brush and some occasional blue language. For vandalism that's not as easily removed, such as marks made by paint or with black or colored markers, park rangers have more powerful tools at their disposal, using rock-colored resin mastic to cover the panel, for example. In the worst cases, however, sometimes they end up having to cut out part of the rock.

Graffiti is surging at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Joshua Tree, Arches and Zion national parks, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. At Capitol Reef and Independence Rock, ignorami scrawl their names over 100-year-old pioneer inscriptions. Even 4,000-year-old drawings from the Archaic Period have been scribbled on.

Read the whole story

World is running low on old single malt Scotch

By Sophia Yan, CNN Money

Bottoms up! Whisky lovers are draining the world's supply of old single malt Scotch.

Thirst for the liquor is booming around the world – from the U.S. to developing countries like China – pushing prices of older vintages through the roof, attracting savvy investors hoping to cash in and forcing distilleries to scramble to meet demand.

“The shortage of old and rare single malt ... has already started, and it's going to get worse,” said Rickesh Kishnani, who launched the world's first whisky investment fund.

Read the whole story

2 new books offer an invitation to the parks

By Brad Tyer, High Country News

The National Park Service's 2016 centennial got off to a rocky start when militants occupied Oregon's Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and Yosemite changed the names of well-loved landmarks.

More in line with the message, surely, are two well-timed new books.

“A Thinking Person’s Guide to America’s National Parks” is an almost painfully earnest re-assessment of the national park system at the century mark. Its 23 chapters dissect the parks – why, and for whom, they exist.

But for anyone already invested, “A Thinking Person’s Guide” makes an excellent armchair roadmap to the Park Service’s more than 400 sites and its many priorities and pursuits, which range from community farming partnerships within the Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island, Wash., to the Kaibab Paiute Tribe’s leadership in preserving dark skies at Arizona’s Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument.

Read the whole story

EDC voters may be asked to raise snow removal tax

By Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County residents in the basin have been griping about the quality of snow removal service this winter.

It’s hard to keep up with the storms when the equipment is in the shop.

“We will be getting one new snowplow that we purchase this year that will be ready for next year. But we, during the snowstorms earlier this year, three of the six snowplows in South Lake Tahoe were not working. I think we have three now that are over 40 years old,” Pedretti told the Board of Supervisors in February. “It’s a wonder that our guys can keep them going at all. So, we have those problems.”

On the South Shore area property owners pay \$20 annually for snow removal, while the fee is \$50 on the West Shore in the Tahoma area.

The county is looking at going to voters this year, probably in November, to raise those fees.

“We haven’t decided on an exact number as of today. We calculate that it would cost approximately \$55 annually for the West Shore, and \$50 for the South Shore, to offset the cost of purchasing snowblowers and graders used for snow removal,” Pedretti told *Lake Tahoe News*. “However, this does not include the cost for ongoing maintenance of the snow removal equipment or the extra cost of staff that work during snow storms. These costs have not been included in the ‘fees’ in the past and we have not yet decided whether to attempt to recover a portion of these costs or not.”

Study: Nev. one of the worst states for women

By Caitlin Lilly, Las Vegas Review-Journal

If you’re a woman, a new ranking suggests you may not want to live in Nevada, as the Silver State ended up near last for how friendly it is to women.

To find the best states for women, WalletHub’s study compared all states and Washington, D.C., across 15 key factors “that speak to the needs and expectations of women in America.”

These factors were separated into two categories – women’s economic and social well-being and women’s health care and

safety – and assigned a point value that were used to determine each states overall rank.

Read the whole story