

Reno man accused of pimping out women in SLT

A Reno man is accused of operating a prostitution business in South Lake Tahoe.



Daniel Gordon

Daniel Gordon, 37, was arrested Jan. 21 on charges of felony pimping as well as driving on a suspended-revoked license.

Three women were arrested on charges of prostitution. Their names are not being released pending further investigation to see if they are victims of human trafficking.

South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team officers lately have been investigating complaints of prostitution in South Lake Tahoe. The investigation focused on individuals who conduct human trafficking through advertisements for escort services placed on websites such as Backpage.com.

SLEDNET officers said they have observed an increase in prostitution, locally and in the surrounding areas, but would not pinpoint the area.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Beach Boys' Wilson coming to Tahoe

By Patrick Ryan, USA Today

Brian Wilson has announced an extensive world tour, which is being advertised as the last time he'll perform the Beach Boys' iconic 1966 album "Pet Sounds" in its entirety, in honor of its 50th anniversary.

The 70-plus date stretch hits Australia, Asia and Europe this spring, before landing in the U.S. in June.

He will be at Harrah's Lake Tahoe on Oct. 14 for the final show of the tour.

Read the whole story

Squaw to dedicate day to MS empowerment

Vertical Express for Can Do Multiple Sclerosis, the only national event series that combines skiing and fundraising to empower people with MS, will hit the slopes of Squaw Valley on Feb. 27.

Vertical Express for Can Do MS features on-mountain and après activities for people of all ages and ability levels. Individuals may register for \$25 **online**. While fundraising is not required to participate in the event, attendees are encouraged to raise funds to earn VIP status, as well as a variety of prizes.

In addition to the on-mountain activities, an adaptive ski experience at the Squaw Valley event will enable 10 people with MS and their support partners to build self-esteem and confidence, improve their fitness levels and join their family and friends on the slopes.

Can Do MS honors the legacy and beliefs of founder and Olympic ski racing medalist Jimmie Heuga, a pioneer in the MS care management field, who was diagnosed with MS at the height of his skiing career and later went on to revolutionize the way MS is managed today.

Go **online** for list of that day's events.

Ski town rents push workers to the edge

By Jack Healy, New York Times

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. – On nights when she could not crash on a friend's couch or unroll a sleeping mat on an attic floor, Chelsea Lilly tucked her silver Subaru into a supermarket parking lot or a dark spot along a mountain pass, wrapped herself in a green Army blanket and watched movies on her phone until she fell asleep.

Getting work at a day spa in this bustling ski town had been easy, but finding an affordable apartment this winter proved almost impossible. So Ms. Lilly, 34, bounced along an itinerant path of couches and borrowed bedrooms that has become a fact of life for workers in jewel-box tourist towns across the country. Nights in the Subaru got so cold that she shivered awake every few hours and ran the engine to thaw out.

The miners who once pried gold and silver from the heart of the Rocky Mountains would attest that living in paradise has never been easy. These days, soaring home prices and a shift toward weekend vacation rentals have created a housing crisis in ski country, one that has people piling into apartments, camping in the woods and living out of their trailers and pickup trucks.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- The U.S. Forest Service is auctioning vehicles for a variety of national forests from Feb. 1-8. For more info, go **online**.

- Here is the Sierra roadwork schedule from Caltrans for this week.
 - Truckee's Community Development Department now offers over-the-counter plan review every Thursday from 7:30am-1pm, with specific time slots from 11am-1pm by appointment.
 - Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison is in India to open an office promoting Nevada tourism.
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Truckee officials to talk recreation success

Several representatives from Truckee will in be South Lake Tahoe on Feb. 17 talking about how the town has successfully funded recreation.

In 2014, with a 75 percent approval, residents passed the Truckee Trails Measure R, a one-quarter cent sales tax to raise more than \$10 million in 10 years for trails in Truckee.

The free 90-minute talk starting at noon is designed to show people how partners in the Truckee area worked together to create the measure and generate community support. Speakers will be Allison Pedley, executive director of Truckee Trails Foundation; Tony Lashbrook, town manager; and Paco Lindsay, Truckee business owner.

The talk will be in the Aspen room at Lake Tahoe Community College.

Kings Beach music series seeks a new look

This summer marks the 10th annual Music on the Beach free concert series at Kings Beach State Recreation Area in Kings Beach.

To commemorate the event, North Tahoe Business Association is

looking for a professional and student graphic designer to overhaul the marketing materials. The deadline to submit ideas is Feb. 5.

To receive a copy of the request for proposal describing what the project entails, contact Karen Wallin at karen@northtahoebusiness.org or 530.546.9000.

This summer, the Music on the Beach concert series will have 10 Friday concerts in a 12-week period, starting June 17 and ending Sept. 2.

Peshon embraces duties of EDSO undersheriff

By Kathryn Reed

Randy Peshon is a man who understands every facet of law enforcement.

And that's a good thing because for nearly a year he has been undersheriff of El Dorado County.

"He's a star. He's excelled at everything," El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini told *Lake Tahoe News*.

D'Agostini tapped Peshon for the job when Rich Williams retired.

"His knowledge and leadership are the two main reasons I selected him for undersheriff," D'Agostini said. "I looked at where we have been and where we are going. Randy was the best choice for the next phase of this administration."

Peshon started with El Dorado County Sheriff's Department in February 1997 after having spent time as a ranger with the National Park Service and East Bay Regional Parks.

After the initial training he became the resident deputy in Tahoe, a job he had for eight years.

"It was great. At that time you not only did patrol, search and rescue, coroner, I was the dive team – you did everything the sheriff's office did," Peshon told *Lake Tahoe News*. "I was never bored."

When he made sergeant he was transferred to the South Lake Tahoe office where he worked in patrol and the courts. For a time he supervised the bailiffs. Then he spent three years in detectives before going back to patrol. As a lieutenant he oversaw the jail in Tahoe.

Undersheriff was never on his radar. Neither is being sheriff. Peshon is happy to serve as No. 2; especially knowing D'Agostini intends to run for a third term in 2018.

"I'm expected to handle everything for the sheriff. It's a very delicate, very political job," Peshon said. "There are competing priorities. Nothing is easy. Every challenge lands on your desk."

The 60-year-old admits things are much different now compared to when he started.

"Technology is a big change. When I started we did reports in pencil. There were no computers in the cars," Peshon said.

He said the public scrutiny, especially lately, is another thing to contend with. Cameras are everywhere now – on officers, suspects and bystanders.

"It's the Ferguson effect. It's the accountability piece," Peshon said in reference Michael Brown, an unarmed black man, who was killed in 2014 by a white police officer in Ferguson,

Mo. An officer's word is no longer golden.

Then there is the Hollywood effect, where TV shows and movies paint an unrealistic picture of what officers are able to do – like having DNA tests back in five minutes, when the reality is some tests take weeks or months.

“Social media drives a lot of perceptions a lot faster. We still have to manage perception even if it is wrong,” Peshon said.

And, still, at the end of the day many aspects of law enforcement are the same. It's all about dealing with people and their problems.

“How you do it has changed. It's more procedure driven,” Peshon said.



Randy Peshon has been undersheriff of El Dorado County for nearly one year. Photo/Provided

It was while Peshon was lieutenant of the Tahoe jail that D'Agostini got to know him.

Peshon was the force behind creating the **culinary program** at the Tahoe jail. This allows inmates who qualify to learn a skill that can translate into a job once they are released. And every year at the El Dorado County fair the inmates bring home multiple ribbons for their baking prowess.

"I've known Randy since his days as the Tahoma resident deputy. Randy has been instrumental in bringing a much needed

focus on providing appropriate treatment to the mentally ill offenders who are incarcerated in our local jail. His hard work and tenacity resulted in the county receiving a MIOCR grant, which supported transitional housing for those leaving the jail and reentering society," El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Suzanne Kingsbury told *Lake Tahoe News*. "He worked with other county agencies, NAMI and the court to develop our Behavioral Health Court. The primary goal was to reduce the number and length of incarcerations of mentally ill offenders who could be safely treated in the community. It was extraordinarily successful, but when the funding ran out, the county was not able to sustain the housing component of the program, which was a huge blow. Just recently, Capt. Jackie Noren worked with criminal justice partners to obtain another MIOCR grant, which enabled the county to secure a new transitional house."

After Peshon made captain he was transferred to Placerville, oversaw both county jails and then was tapped as undersheriff. Not all of California's 58 counties have an undersheriff, so he doesn't have many peers.

"It's a very unique job. It's really an honor that someone selects you to run the agency for them. It's also a huge opportunity to leave a legacy. The decisions I make now will affect the agency for 10 to 20 years. It tends to keep you awake at night at times," Peshon said.

The main job D'Agostini has thrust upon Peshon is to get the new headquarters in Placerville built.

"He has been my No. 1 advisor through the whole process," D'Agostini said.

Peshon was instrumental in finding the \$2.6 million for the property in Placerville, which will be paid for in February. Construction will be another \$45 million.

The sheriff said his No. 1 goal is public safety, No. 2 is to

get the headquarters built. He said the current facility is so bad it “needs to be bulldozed.”

While the fact that Peshon hails from Tahoe was not a deciding factor to promote him to undersheriff, D’Agostini admits it’s a bonus. The sheriff has made a concerted effort to eliminate the us vs. them mentality of the divide between Placerville and Lake Tahoe. Peshon is that human bridge.

For Peshon, though, the job has him spending the bulk of this time – even the nights – on the West Slope. He returns on the weekends to his home and wife.

“I’m having the time of my life. I have a really good boss,” Peshon said. “He has extremely clear values, a vision for where the agency needs to go. It’s an honor to do that for him.”

Editorial: Pension outlook darkens for Calif. taxpayers

Publisher’s note: *This editorial is from the Jan. 17, 2016, Orange County Register.*

Despite fairly steady economic growth and state budget surpluses, California’s unfunded public employee pension liabilities are spiking. As detailed by Stanford University research scholar David Crane on the Fox & Hounds website, year-end reports pegged the increase in unfunded pension promises for the California Public Employees Retirement System at \$15 billion and for the California State Teachers Retirement System at \$9 billion.

Total spike in unfunded liabilities for fiscal year 2014-15, which ended June 30: \$24 billion.

Before last year, total unfunded pension liabilities, as detailed in Gov. Jerry Brown's budget proposal for fiscal year 2016-17, were \$72.7 billion for CalSTRS and \$43.3 billion for CalPERS. Adding up everything, the new total unfunded liability for both giant pension funds is \$140 billion.

Read the whole story

Online booking makes hotel loyalty harder to keep

By Amy Zipkin, New York Times

For the past six months, Erin Gifford, a marketing director based in Washington, has traveled for business at least once a month, mostly to Boston.

But she has yet to see a single reward from a hotel chain.

"I'm not big into loyalty programs," said Gifford, who works at Cove.is, a work space provider. Instead, she books hotels on Priceline about two weeks ahead. She typically picks an area that is a 15-minute walk from her meetings and pays about \$100 a night with taxes. She has never stayed at the same hotel twice.

In the end, she said her hodgepodge approach, made possible by online booking, offered greater flexibility and savings than loyalty to a single chain.

Read the whole story