

Swanson is Barton's doctor of the year

Keith Swanson has been named Barton Health's doctor of the year.

Each year, hundreds of Barton team members cast their vote to nominate a favorite physician in honor of National Doctor's Day, which was March 29.



Keith Swanson

Swanson has practiced orthopedic surgery in Lake Tahoe and the Carson Valley since 1979. He is a founding member of the Tahoe Sports Medicine Fellowship, which continues to train orthopedic surgeons in sports medicine techniques. He currently serves as the designated institutional officiate of the fellowship. His passion for teaching lead him to launching and directing the graduate medical education for Barton Health.

Swanson is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery with a sub-specialty certification in sports medicine. He is an active member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Sports Medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He is also a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. Swanson specializes in sports injuries and joint replacement surgery.

Snowmobiler dies near Spooner Summit

An Elk Grove man died Thursday snowmobiling near Spooner Summit.

Thomas Korves, 56, was found deceased beneath his sled.

Douglas County investigators said, "Thomas had been attempting to ride up a steep hill when he turned at an angle, causing the snowmobile to flip and pin him underneath."

He and a friend had been riding on March 29 when they got separated. The friend called 911 at about 2:30pm when he couldn't find his buddy.

Search and rescue crews found the snowmobile about 8:30pm pinned up against a tree on a steep embankment off the side of the Tahoe Rim Trail. Korves was under the snowmobile. An autopsy confirmed Korves died from lack of respiration as a result of his chest being compressed underneath the weight of the snowmobile.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Casino, pot business slow to

adopt bitcoin in Nev.

By Arthur Kane, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Cryptocurrency promises benefits for Nevada's most regulated industries – marijuana and gaming. Proponents say bitcoin's blockchain technology could help marijuana businesses track sales and inventory, and bitcoin helps big gamblers export their money from countries that limit the movement of cash.

But nearly a decade after bitcoin was created, the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the Nevada Department of Taxation have not created rules to address the use of cryptocurrency in casinos and the marijuana industry.

Representatives from those Nevada agencies declined to discuss the possible use of bitcoin at dispensaries and casinos, saying no one has formally requested permission to accept cryptocurrency for casino chips or cannabis.

Read the whole story

Doug Rousse – 1950-2018



Doug Rousse

Douglas Raymond Rousse, 67, passed away on March 10, 2018, at his home in Lake Tahoe, Nev.

Born in Detroit on May 11, 1950, he was the son of Darcy Raymond Rousse and Yvonne Charlotte Labadie Rousse. He graduated from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich.. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-1971. He worked in transportation logistics and finance throughout his career.

Doug retired early and relocated from Southern California to South Lake Tahoe in 2002 to enjoy the Lake Tahoe lifestyle. Doug later started a custom picture framing business alongside his two sons in Carson City. At one point he had three custom picture framing stores in South Lake Tahoe and Minden.

He was the husband of Nancy Kyle Rousse. They shared 46 years of marriage together.

After the birth of several grandchildren and with his love of everything sweet, he bought the Lake Tahoe Chocolate Shop which had a store front location in Stateline and in the MontBleu casino. His entrepreneurial spirit and love for business made him a dedicated member of the Tahoe Douglas Rotary Club. Doug enjoyed living in the Tahoe area, cooking and being with family and friends, visiting the local wineries

in El Dorado County and all things Chicago and Michigan.

He will be remembered as the life of the party and his kind and engaging persona. He brought love and laughter to everyone who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy Rousse; his children, Samuel Rousse (Mandi Salzman), Joseph Rousse (Melissa) and Katheryn Rousse Jaeger (Robert); grandchildren Benjamin, Isaac, Meadow, Autumn, Cameron and Raymond; and sisters Linda Perry, Phyllis Critchfield and Shelly Kozicki of Grosse Ile, Mich. He was predeceased by his brother, Bruce Rousse.

Memorial donations can be made to the Parkinson's Foundation in Doug's name.

How much is too much with marijuana edibles?



Marijuana edibles are a big seller in Nevada. Photo Copyright 2018 Carolyn E. Wright

By Chris Kudialis, Las Vegas Sun

Open a pack of convenience store gummy candies and it's hard not to grab a handful at a time to satisfy your craving.

But doing the same for a tube of marijuana gummy candies could leave users on the floor.

Marijuana edibles have quickly become a hot seller in the first seven months of legalized pot in Nevada, with as much as 45 percent of all weed sales being edibles, according to figures from several dispensary owners.

Read the whole story

Sierra-at-Tahoe to honor its champion athletes

Sierra-at-Tahoe will honor its local winter sports athletes with a celebration at their home mountain on April 7.

Jamie Anderson, Maddie Bowman, Hannah Teter and Kyle Smaine had success in the competitive year including bringing home Olympic gold and silver medals, world championship titles and X Games gold. The celebration will take place on the Solstice Plaza at Sierra's base area and will include autograph signing, speeches by local dignitaries, a silent auction with proceeds going to Protect Our Winters and Jamie Anderson Foundation.

Autographs will be available on the Solstice Plaza from 11:30am-noon; bring items have signed by the Olympians.. Speeches will take place at 12:30pm and a silent auction with Olympic memorabilia and donations will be in the Solstice Eatery from 1-3p.m.

This is a free celebration and includes athlete appearances by Anderson and Hannah Teter. All athletes will be honored.

What would Sierra snowpack loss mean for N. Nevada?

By Frederick A. Steinmann, Reno Gazette-Journal

During the region's last drought from 2015 to 2017, area lakes and reservoirs nearly ran dry; ski seasons started late and ended early; hotel rooms in the Lake Tahoe and Reno-Sparks

areas remained vacant; and farmers and ranchers saw their crop yields and herd levels plummet.

While the region's economy continued to recover from the impacts of the Great Recession, some Northern Nevada industry sectors experienced economic hardship on par with the impacts experienced during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression of the 1930s.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- The season is about to begin at Zephyr Cove Tennis Club. Go **online** to become a member.
 - South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Marine Boat 17 will be christened April 2 at 1:30pm at the Tahoe Keys Marina.
 - Mt. Rose ski resort plans to stay open until April 29.
 - Steel Pulse, Mike Love, Clear Conscience, and DJ DubFyah will be at MontBleu in Stateline on May 24. Doors open at 7pm, show at 8pm. Advance tickets \$25, day of show \$30.
 - South Lake Tahoe Optimist Club's 51st annual Easter Egg Hunt is March 31 at Lake Tahoe Community College adjacent to the gymnasium. Gates open at 10am, at 10:30am is judging of Easter bonnets and costumes, at 10:45am the Easter Bunny lead parade, and 11am Easter Egg Hunt begins. Areas will be divided by age group.
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LT Humane Society's future in state of flux

By Kathryn Reed

It will take the will of community members to make the Lake Tahoe Humane Society relevant, solvent and functioning without a cloud of distrust. Today it is teetering on becoming just a memory.

A handful of people gathered Thursday at the South Lake Tahoe office of the 51-year-old nonprofit, begging the board not to shut down the Humane Society.

The three-member board – Sue Pritchett, Lorna Lefler and Kim Stephenson – were at the helm when former Executive Director **Niki Congero** allegedly stole more than \$100,000. She was fired a year ago this month. The case rests with the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office.

In the past year, the three have done nothing to build the community's trust. They have not taken control. They have implemented few new policies. They have not brought on new board members. They have not tried new fundraising techniques.

They admit to being exhausted and burned out.



Lake Tahoe Humane Society board members Lorna Lefler and Sue Pritchett on March 29 express a willingness to move on. Photo/Kathryn Reed

"I can't think of anything we haven't done," Pritchett said when asked what the board is doing to be solvent. Yet specifics were in short supply, and ultimately it was evident little has been done.

At least three people on Thursday expressed interest in keeping the Human Society's doors open. Wendy Jones said she would help keep the Disaster Animal Response Team viable. After Hurricane Katrina the federal government said cities had to have a plan to care for animals during an emergency. However, Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News* the city has functioned just fine without the Humane Society and wasn't even aware of its DART group.

Others at the gathering questioned how the Humane Society had the audacity to simply give away crates that cost more than \$100. Or why the trash service was canceled, which then led to

wild animals getting into the garbage. This all occurred in the last week.

The board appears to be on a path of downsizing, purging assets and throwing in the towel.

The **board fired** the last remaining staff member. They have paid off some debt. They would all like to resign. They have contemplated selling the office on Emerald Bay Road that is paid for.

It was only about three weeks ago that Pritchett even asked Judy Brown, the now former office manager, how to go about changing the bylaws. Brown told her it's a complex process. Pritchett didn't pursue it further.

The bylaws are an issue because they put a great deal of power into the executive director's hands. This was a problem when Congero was at the helm. It's not known why the board, which is the boss of any employee, has not made the changes to prevent another fiasco.

Brown became the interim executive director last summer and at that time was directed to come up with a budget for the last six months of the year as the agency transitioned from a fiscal year starting July 1 to being on a calendar year. Revenues did surpass expenses for those six months, but that is also the time when the bulk of the income comes in.

The relationship between Brown and the board has completely soured, but why is a mystery.

Board members said they don't know how to use the office computer or get onto the website. They didn't even know where a copy of the bylaws reside.

When Brown was there she kept documents like that in a folder on the desk because she knew the public had a right to view them if requested.

Stephenson, who came to the meeting late, had a better handle on the financials and was able to answer some questions her colleagues couldn't, even though Pritchett is the treasurer and Lefler is the president.

There is about \$40,000 in the bank account. A hard loan of \$180,000 that was secured last year comes with a \$1,500/month payment for 10 years. Veterinarians are owed about \$20,000. Those aren't the only debts, though.

The board didn't have a definitive dollar figure March 29 for what is owed, nor what the operating budget is. The board's only plan to pay the bills is to sell the building.

Lefler revealed, "Donations never covered everything."

In other words, expenses were always more than the revenue. This became even more apparent when three years ago the board bought the building with money that had been bequeathed to the Humane Society. (Lefler and Pritchett were on the board at that time.) This meant the cash reserves were drawn down by more than \$300,000.

Lefler said this was done on the advice of a financial consultant.

The board intends to schedule a meeting soon with the desire to have prospective board members come forward, as well as volunteers. The current board is ready to walk away and turn everything over to others. For more information, to donate or learn about being a board member, email info@laketahoehumanesociety.org or call 530.542.2857.

Opinion: It's too soon for #MeToo apathy

By Lyndsey Gilpin, High Country News

Before the #MeToo movement took off on social media, before it was common knowledge that members of the Trump administration – including the president himself – had been accused of sexual misconduct, before male media moguls, Hollywood actors and executives, an Olympic coach, comedians, editors, professors, business leaders and others were ousted or called out for similar accusations, I spent a year investigating sexual harassment in the National Park Service. I talked to dozens of women about their experiences. Almost every one told me she feared things would never change – that if she spoke up, she'd risk her career, her reputation, her ambitions, all for nothing.

Each time, I promised I would do everything in my power as a journalist to hold the people and institutions that perpetuate this culture accountable.

That was over a year ago. Since then, the national discourse about sexual harassment has shifted. People are more confident about sharing their stories, making the subject less taboo. The movement is spurring conversations about what harassment is and how power dynamics play out in the workplace. More revelations about my own focus – the widespread, systemic sexual harassment and gender discrimination in our nation's public-land agencies – have surfaced.

Read the whole story