

Medical records state officer shot suspect in back

By Van Tieu, KRNV-TV

The family of an unarmed man who was shot and killed by a South Lake Tahoe Police officer have argued Kris Jackson, 22, was not a threat.

The family's attorney, Alan Laskin, said here's more evidence to support their argument. He says he believes Officer Joshua Klinge shot Jackson in the back.

Laskin points to medical records from Barton Memorial Hospital from June 15. That's when Jackson was shot at the Tahoe Hacienda Inn.

One physician wrote, "He was shot in the back with exit wound to front of chest."

Another register nurse noted, "[Patient] with one [gunshot wound] to mid back, entrance wound to mid back, exit wound to sternum."

South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Brian Uhler said, "I have not seen any evidence to support the claim made by the attorney, suggesting Jackson was shot in the back. Evidence to the contrary will be available at the proper time from officials who conducted the autopsy."

The South Lake Tahoe Police Department and El Dorado County District Attorney's Office say there's no estimate on when the investigation will wrap up and the official autopsy will be released.

Read the whole story

Tighter slot machines might be hurting revenue

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Casino markets in many states have tightened their slot machines over the years, and that could be hurting revenues, according to recent industry-backed research.

The Association of Gaming Equipment Manufacturers on Wednesday announced the results of a report it asked Las Vegas-based Applied Analysis to conduct on the nation's slot machine industry. Applied Analysis found that, in general, slot hold percentages – which reflect how much of gamblers' money the machines keep – have reached “all-time highs,” even as slot revenue and wagers remain well below their peaks from before the recession.

In other words, customers don't gamble as much on slots as they once did, and casinos make less money from the machines but take a greater share of the wagers.

Nevada's 6.4 percent slot hold last year was higher than it was when slot revenue peaked in 2007, but it was still the lowest of any state examined in the report.

Read the whole story

Talks stall between Caesars, lenders

By Associated Press

Talks have once again ended between a bankrupt division of casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. and its bank lenders as the company aims to get its creditors on board with a reorganization plan before November.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing on Monday the company said talks ended the day before after the two sides couldn't come to an agreement on terms. Lenders want Caesars Entertainment Corp. to hand over \$125 million in cash up front, more than the \$62.5 million the company has offered, among other things.

The debt-heavy Caesars Entertainment Operating Co. division filed for bankruptcy in January to rid itself of most of the \$18.4 billion in debt it had amassed.

The company has until Nov. 15 to file a reorganization plan with the court.

Arson suspect arrested on West Slope



Justin Tullos

A transient is in custody, accused of setting a fire along Highway 50 and being in possession of a deadly weapon.

El Dorado County sheriff's deputies on Aug. 14 at 11:45pm received a call saying man was standing inside of a fire that was burning along Highway 50 near Still Meadows Road in Camino. CalFire crews put out the fire.

Deputies found 30-year-old Justin Tullos sitting inside the burned area on the hillside. Tullos reportedly admitted to starting the fire. He also had a dagger concealed on his person.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Women's health subject of talk in SLT

Kenneth Spielvogel from Barton Women's Health will be giving a talk Sept. 2 about identifying gynecologic malignancies.

He will discuss the latest screening tools and technology to identify cancer. The doctor will also tell people about lifestyle choices to reduce the risk of cancer.

The free talk is from 6-7pm at Lake Tahoe Community College's

board room.

Ex-Caltrans engineer talks about Tahoe roads



Gene Abshier talks transportation.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

If money weren't an issue, there would likely be a bridge over Emerald Bay today.

Caltrans spent decades studying the idea. It started with the desire by people to have an all-weather route on the West Shore. This is because for about $3\frac{1}{2}$ months a year Highway 89 was closed because of snow.

It was in 1913 that a road was built on that side of the lake. It was 22 miles. At that time it took two days to drive from South Lake Tahoe to Tahoe City, according to Gene Abshier, an engineer in the Marysville Caltrans office for 36 years. Today

he is a resident of South Lake Tahoe. Last week he gave a talk about the history of roads in Lake Tahoe.

Improvements to the roads continued until World War II when funding for these types of projects ceased.

It was after the war that California created the freeway and expressway systems. The state was divided in half, with the northern end getting 40 percent of the funding. A caveat was that Caltrans had to spend a minimum of \$4 million in each county each year.

This is how in 1965 Highway 50 was widened from 22-foot lanes to 40 foot from Lake Tahoe Airport to 15th Street. It took about seven months to construct.

The 1955 Christmas Eve rockslide closed Highway 89 until the following November. That scar on the mountainside remains today.

In 1956 engineers came up with the idea of a suspension bridge more than 1,800 feet long as well as snow sheds more than 2,000 feet long that would go under the slide.

Each year that passed more alternatives were created until 28 were on the table. Seven included crossing Emerald Bay, snow sheds, viaducts, and three alignments through D.L. Bliss State Park were some of the ideas. Land owners, residents and others were nowhere near agreement on what the best route would be.

Abshier told his boss there was no way they could send Sacramento that many choices. He still has a copy of the report – which was whittled down to eight alternatives – that went to higher ups. It's more than an inch thick. This was pre-computers. Engineers wrote things and those in the typing pool took over from there.

"It was the thickest and most complex report out of our office," Abshier said. This was 1969.

With the importance of the document and the level of interest in it, extra copies were ordered – 200 total.

Abshier said 160 ended up in storage. Most of those were sent to a landfill.

There was no money for such an ambitious project. Times were also changing as people started to care more about the environment.

Letter: Campground is a folly on the ridge

To the community,

What does it take to snap you out of your apathy? Paul Revere galloping along Highway 28 shouting “the developers are coming, the developers are coming.”

The Tahoe Rim Trail offers many things: physical challenge, endless beauty and the quietness of nature at high elevations. Do hikers and bikers really want to run into a swimming pool and restaurant? Do we really need one person telling all of us how many camp sites we need on our end of the lake?

This **proposed campsite** scar on our hillside is a precursor to more of the same: more cars, more people, more congestion, more noise and more possibilities of wildfires. I know I’m full of questions. You should be too. Remember the movie “Network” where Peter Finch yells – “I’m mad as hell and I won’t take this any more.”

Two government agencies are in a position to block this disaster. One, Placer County, will soon issue a draft

environmental impact report and you reading and responding to it will be your first opportunity to thwart this project.

I hope you will stand tall and shout.

Thanks,

Steve Pearsall, Crystal Bay

First flowers may have ‘bloomed’ in water, not on land

By Amina Khan, Los Angeles Times

By analyzing more than 1,000 fossil remains, scientists have discovered that an unassuming, 130-million-year-old water-dwelling plant could be one of Earth’s first flowering plants.

Montsechia vidalii, described in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, could change many theories about how angiosperms, or plants with the ability to produce flowers, first came to be.

“Because it is so ancient and is totally aquatic,” the study authors wrote, this extinct freshwater plant “raises questions centered on the very early evolutionary history of flowering plants.”

Flowers are a relatively recent addition to the plant family tree; until they emerged, plants managed to reproduce without growing many-petaled lures for nectar-seeking insects.

[Read the whole story](#)

Wi-Fi coming to Genoa

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Douglas County Redevelopment Agency, approved \$20,000 to fund the Genoa Main Street Wi-Fi Project.

Much like the system recently installed in Virginia City, the project will add a full-scale Wi-Fi network in Genoa's downtown corridor, allowing people to access the Internet, find out more about local attractions and recreational opportunities, retrieve e-mail or surf the Web. Currently, obtaining a sufficient wireless signal in many areas of Genoa is challenging.

Very small devices will be installed on the town's street lights and several buildings throughout downtown to create the mesh network. The new system will allow event vendors the opportunity to complete sales transactions via Squares or other data-enabled devices.

SUP races, music at Tahoe Paradise Park

Tahoe Paradise Park will be the site for Music in the Park and Tahoe Games Standup Paddle Races on Aug. 23 and Sept. 13.

Standup paddleboard races will run from 2-4pm with a custom course built across Lake Baron. Free live music will follow the paddleboard races with Kanekoa and Taking Root performing from 4-8pm.

In addition to live music and recreation, the events will highlight local vendors, artists, free bike valet and a beer/wine garden. Proceeds from the beer/wine garden will benefit Sierra-at-Tahoe Education Foundation.