

Hang-glider found dead near Slide Mountain

By Ian McGibboney, Reno Gazette-Journal

A hang-glider was found dead Friday afternoon near Slide Mountain, Washoe County Sheriff's Office spokesman Bob Harmon said.

The victim has not yet been identified, Harmon said, and has been described only as an adult male. No other information was available.

Dispatch received word of the man going down at 1:30pm June 26. The victim was discovered at 4pm by air south of the Slide Mountain ski area after several agencies and groups of volunteers were unable to locate him through a ground search, Harmon said.

Read the whole story

Nev. higher ed officials quash critical report

By Bethany Barnes, Las Vegas Review-Journal

When state lawmakers wanted ideas about how to improve the state's community colleges last year, the Nevada System of Higher Education hired a Colorado-based think tank to scrutinize the four schools.

But when the National Center for Higher Education Management

Systems produced a report highly critical of the state's higher education leadership, the study was quashed.

A series of emails between higher education system officials obtained by the Review-Journal through the state's public records law shows state officials feared the report could be used by their critics and suppressed the findings in fear that reforms would dramatically reduce their authority over the schools.

In an email, Constance Brooks, the higher education system's vice chancellor for government and community affairs, remarked to colleagues that the report shed a "very negative light" on the state's Board of Regents and asked if the audience for the report was the system's "antagonists."

"I say we just take what we like out of the report and do away with the rest," she suggested.

Read the whole story

Letter: Learning the lesson of giving

To the community,

As a longtime South Shore resident, I experienced the generosity of the community who helped provide clothes and food to my mother and I when she struggled financially. The community again helped me when I had a spinal cord injury by providing free medical care.

Later, Lake Tahoe Community College welcomed me as a student and helped me gain the education I needed to pursue my goals. They again showed the importance of community when I was offered a position as an adjunct instructor, which has led to a career that I love.

I feel privileged that I can now help out, not just in our small town, but around the world as well. I am currently in Hoi An, Vietnam, volunteering at a center for orphaned, abandoned, and disabled children. The children have been affected by Agent Orange, and there are not enough wheelchairs and supplies. So many spend their days lying in bed or on the floor.

Our U.S. currency is worth quite a bit here, and any contribution would be very helpful and make these children very happy. A GoFundMe account has been set up for them.

Mary Gillespie

Nordic training program coming to Tahoe City

Tahoe Cross Country Ski Education Association will be offering a fall-winter comp-devo Nordic training program starting in September.

It will be open to athletes in grades 6-12 who are motivated to have fun and improve their fitness throughout the year as well as work on their ski specific technique for skate and classic. Sessions will be divided by program type and/or ability levels to ensure appropriate workouts while at the same time maintaining a fun team environment.

The Junior Development Program's goal is to prepare ages 11-15 for the cross country ski season through a variety of activities that will improve strength, agility, endurance and ski technique.

The Competition Team (ages 14-19) will work with coaches to develop an appropriate training schedule tailored to fit each athlete's needs. The program is designed to develop aerobic fitness, ski technique, and prepare skiers for the upcoming race season.

Then and now: Post offices come and go



Delivering mail in Tahoe has not always been easy. Photo/Lake Tahoe Historical Society

A sign at the above very early post office has the words "Tahoe Island Park" on the smaller sign. This pre-dates the residential area of the same name that today adjoins the Tahoe Keys on the South Shore which didn't get developed until the 1950s.



Provided by Carol Van Etten

Carol Van Etten, who runs a historical website, said that two miles northeast of Tahoe City on Highway 28 an area named "Tahoe Island Park" was surveyed and mapped in November 1910. It is the dominant portion of today's Lake Forest at North Shore. Van Etten believes the top photo was taken in nearby Tahoe City or simply "Tahoe" as the post office there was officially known until 1949.



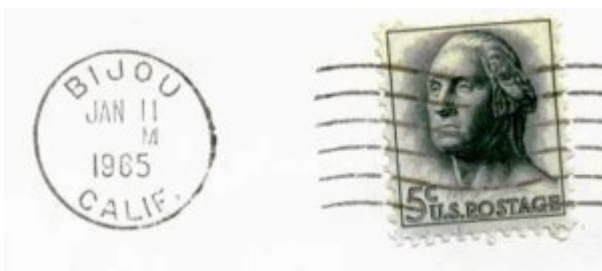
Bijou Post Office
Photo/Lake Tahoe Historical
Society

More than 100 years ago the Bijou Post Office existing in a

small lean-to attached to the building labeled "Store." Many decades later, Bijou would become the first main post office in South Lake Tahoe.

Before the city was formed, there were distinct postmarks for each office, such as Bijou, Al Tahoe, Stateline, Tahoe Valley and Meyers.

Today, the outgoing local mail is postmarked Reno, NV, unless it is metered, or if it is postmarked manually at a local post office.



Two local postmarks before
South Lake Tahoe was formed.
Photos/Bill Kingman

There was a Tahoe Keys Post Office which operated briefly from 1959 until 1962 as a branch of the Tahoe Valley Post Office.



This was once a post office
in Camp Richardson.
Photo/Bill Kingman

One more now-extinct local post office and postmark was Camp Richardson, Calif. It operated from 1927 to 1973.

— *Bill Kingman*

Opinion: Taking pride in the court's decision

By Susan Wood

California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who confirmed with *Lake Tahoe News* on Friday that he plans to run for governor of the state, is one of a few people I sought to connect with after the U.S. Supreme Court's epic decision that paves the way for federal recognition of gay marriage.

The long struggle has commanded undaunted dedication amid adversity from certain brave activists.



Gavin Newsom – a crusader to recognize gay marriage before it was politically correct. Photo/Kathryn Reed

As San Francisco mayor, Newsom bucked his party and his own father when he decided in February 2004 to defiantly go against state statutes in issuing marriage licenses through the county clerk's office to gay and lesbian couples. More than 4,000 licenses were issued. Newsom was chastised by the right and the left.

What motivated him?

It was when President George W. Bush vowed to seek a constitutional amendment to bar same sex marriages in the United States at his State of the Union address.

"I was there listening to this message," Newsom told *Lake Tahoe News* on June 26.

We spoke as I was driving to the Bay Area to attend LGBT night at AT&T Park. Newsom had a sense of vigilance to his tone. This was no ordinary chat. I pulled over, and he got personal.

He said he heard a Bush supporter talk about "the homosexual" with such a grimaced venom that it was too much to sit idly by.

"It made me sick," he said. "It was literally that moment that triggered me to do something about this."

It was what the Jesuits taught him: "We have many parts and one body. When one part suffers, it all suffers."

Newsom attended Santa Clara University, a Jesuit college.

"We believe in social justice. You are who you are the way God created you," he said.

Take those convictions and blend them with Newsom's father's influence and you have the modern-day California activist. His father, William Newsom, is a retired state appeals court judge.

For years the younger statesman could not get his father on board to support his pivotal exercise in the gay rights movement.

It was when the Newsoms attended an Auburn Democratic Club fundraiser that the father publicly stated he "finally came around to my point of view."

"He never told me," Newsom said.

Activism often comes with surprises.

Although Newsom cautioned the opposition is motivated to fight back because "we're not going to stop homophobia, we're not going to stop discrimination," Friday's landmark ruling was poignant for the state official as what he deems "a historic footnote."

"I never thought I'd be alive to see this day, and not that I expected to die young," Newsom said.

I had thought the same thing.

Newsom especially didn't expect it in 2004 when he pushed open the floodgates, declaring four years later: "It's inevitable. It's going to happen whether you like it or not."

The statement became a rallying cry for the opposition.

"I'm someone who's willing to take a risk," he said.

It paid off. Today he should be one of the most celebrated dignitaries in San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade.

I've attended many of these parades over the years. Some decades more than others. At no other time has one become more important to me.



Susan Wood never thought in her lifetime that gay marriage would be legal in the United States.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

I volunteered to defeat the Briggs Initiative that would have fired teachers for coming out. I marched for equality in Sacramento. I assisted the Municipal Elections Committee in Los Angeles as a political activist group. I wrote story after story about the beginning of the AIDS crisis when I lived in Palm Springs and Los Angeles. I watched friends die of the disease. Then, I watched their names unfolding in a quilt large enough to take up the entire UCLA auditorium.

I think of these people now. How they would have loved to see this progress in humanity. Many didn't see it from their own families before they died. They still held their heads high with dignity. In particular, I remember my friend Vince caring for Chris as his health diminished. Then, Vince succumbed not

even considering that he could have lived out his last years having fun instead of being a caregiver.

Now that's love. And love will always prevail.

As I ponder the argument against gay marriage being over as states are now mandated by the federal government to get on the right side of history, I wonder how my love hinders another.

I am in no position to marry at this state of my life. But that's not the point. The point is the option is there. And I have loved someone enough to call it a marriage. For all my gay friends who are married, they can go to any state and have their union be legitimate, just as it always has been for my heterosexual friends.

If any marriage serves as an obstacle to yours, you have a bigger problem in the relationship than normal insecurity.

Marriage – gay or straight – it's finally all the same.

'Aladdin' auditions set for school-age kids

Auditions for Missoula Children's Theatre production of "Aladdin" are July 6 at South Tahoe Middle School's multipurpose room from 10am-noon.

Those auditioning should plan to stay for the full two hours. Auditions are free. If cast, there is a \$50 per child fee to participate in this weeklong theater experience. A limited number of scholarships are available by calling Peggy Blowney at 530.542.3632.

Approximately 60 roles are available. All students grades K-12 may audition. No advanced preparation is necessary. Rehearsals will be Monday through Friday from 10am-2:30pm. The performances are scheduled for July 10 at 3pm and 6pm at the South Tahoe High School theater.

For more information, call Tahoe Arts Project at 530.542.3632.

Drought exposing gold in Calif. waterways

By Associated Press

California's prolonged drought has created opportunities for prospectors and miners panning, sluicing, chiseling and diving for gold.

The Sacramento Bee reported this week that gold seekers are wading into formerly deep waterways to harvest flecks from the pea gravel and sediment in crevices that have long been inaccessible.

Long-haul trucker Gary Shaver says he is one of those finding treasures in the receding waters.

He prospects for gold at least 200 days a year, pulling out about three grams a week. An ounce of gold is worth roughly \$1,200, down from nearly \$1900 in 2011, the newspaper reports.

California is in its fourth year of the drought that has dried up water used to irrigate crops and forced drastic water cutbacks for cities and communities.

Markleeville out of danger from wildland fire



Markleeville is out of danger for now from the Washington Fire. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

Updated 10:35pm:

This is from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office: "As of 9:35pm, crews are responding to the fires. Two fires have been reported above Jack's Valley, one above Autumn Hills, one above Job's Peak Ranch and one near Fay Luther Canyon. The fires are going to be monitored through the night and will be addressed during the daylight hours. No structures are in danger at this time."

Also, the power is back on in Alpine County.

Updated 9:15pm:

Lightning Saturday started at least six fires on the west side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

East Fork Fire with U.S. Forest Service and the BLM have responded to the multiple fires and are working to access each of the fires.

The fire above Job's Peak Ranch was being address via helicopter. The fire south near Faye Canyon has a containment line surrounding the fire with hand crews working on that fire.

Similar weather patterns are anticipated for the next few days.

The power had been restored to Alpine County but is now out again because a pole on the Nevada-California border was struck by lightning. Power is expected to be back on by 10:30pm.

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Firefighters throughout the region are on edge with the electrical storm rumbling through June 27.

Reggae fans were dispersed from the Lake Tahoe Hard Rock early Saturday evening because of lightning. By 7pm the music was back on.

The Washington Fire is at 17,622 acres, with 29 percent containment. A lightning storm is responsible for starting that fire near Markleeville. It was first spotted June 19, about 10 days after the storm blew threw.

The town of Markleeville and the Grover Springs Hot Springs Campground is no longer under an evacuation advisory and the public may return to these areas.

Highways 4 and 89 are closed in the area.

Much of Alpine County is without power because the lightning and rain in the Carson Valley cut the power coming in from NV Energy. Liberty Utilities, which supplies the county with power but gets the energy from NV, did not have an estimated time when power would be restored.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Star gazing event at Spooner Park

Professional stargazer Gigi Giles will be at Spooner Lake State Park on July 10.

She will have high powered telescopes and astronomical binoculars to look at the night sky from an elevation of 7,000 feet.

Wear comfortable shoes and bring a warm jacket. Red flashlights are recommended. Children under 12 and pets are not recommended for this free event.

Meet in the upper parking lot at 8:30pm.