Truckee families face eviction at mobile home park

By David Bunker, Moonshine Ink

Javier Gomez has lived in Truckee for 19 years. He's raised a family here, put his children through school, and slowly saved enough to buy a mobile home in Sunset Inn I mobile home park in 2014. Now, that life, his family's home, and their tight-knit neighborhood is on the verge of being erased from Truckee.

New ownership at the mobile home park, dramatic rent increases, and what he and his neighbors allege is a concerted effort to displace Truckee families from their homes, is close to turning him and his family out into one of the most merciless housing markets in Tahoe/Truckee's history.

The last hope for Gomez and nine other families who live in Sunset Inn I appears to be a lawsuit that was filed in November in the Nevada County Superior Court, alleging the actions of the new owner are illegal.

Read the whole story

Lack of snow impacts Bridgeport Recreation Area

Due to insufficient snow depth, the Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's Bridgeport Ranger District is closed.

This closure will remain in effect until snow depth exceeds the minimum requirement of 24 inches that is needed to open the area again to snowmobile use.

Without the proper amount of snow resource damage can occur. Violators could face a fine of $5,000 and/or six months in jail.

The are is open to non-motorized recreation.

For updates, call 760.932.7070.

Kings Beach getting ready for Snowfest

The annual Kings Beach Snowfest Parade is scheduled for March 10, 11:30am-12:30pm on Highway 28 in downtown Kings Beach between Secline and Coon streets.

Last year’s Kings Beach Snowfest Parade was attended by an estimated 1,000 spectators and featured 30 entries including kids, music, animals, clubs and more. This year, the parade will be filled with past participants as well as several new entries and surprises. Due to time constraints, the number of parade entries will be limited to the first 40 paid participants accepted. Parade entry forms are due Feb. 16.

Volunteers are needed to assist with parade line-up, crowd/traffic control, and act as road and driveway blockers. Volunteers will have a great view of the parade and feel rewarded to have taken part in this fun filled community event. Contact Ashley at 530.546.9000 or email ashley@northtahoebusiness.org to secure a volunteer assignment.

For a complete schedule of Snowfest events, go **online**.

Letter: Businessman expresses views on Kerry

Publisher's note: ***This letter was sent to South Lake Tahoe Mayor Wendy David and Lake Tahoe News.***

Dear Mayor David,

Hello, my name is Ted Kennedy. I am a partner in the following businesses in town:
Base Camp Pizza
Azul Latin kitchen
California Burger Co
Poke Rok
Outpost Brewery
Ten Crows BBQ
Lakeside Beach House
Social House Deli
Human Potential Speakeasy
Tahoe Stewards

I believe we've met briefly. And I heard you speak at the CEO meeting last month, very impressive. I don't want to stick my nose in where it doesn't belong and I certainly don't know all of the facts, but I'd like to humbly give you my 2 cents on the Nancy [Kerry] situation.

I've opened businesses in 20 different cities and towns in California in my previous life as director of real estate for

Boston Market. The experience I’ve had dealing with Nancy and the government in general here in S. Tahoe – which at some level is a credit to her – is by far the best I’ve had. Proactive, positive, helpful and fair. I’ve been extremely impressed with the access and efficiency of Nancy and her staff and I do not believe that happens by accident.

There are always challenges and naysayers, but organizations do not perform at this level by accident. Whatever Nancy’s failings are, and we all have them, they certainly aren’t reflected in the communication and services provided by the city that she’s is the manager of.

Again, sorry if I am commenting where I shouldn’t, but I thought it only fair that I let you know my thoughts.

Very, very respectfully,

Ted Kennedy

Estate planning for digital assets

By Natalie Banta, The Conversation

What will happen to your Facebook account when you die? What about all your photos shared on social media, your texts with loved ones, or documents on cloud-storage systems? In just the two-year period from 2012 to 2014, humans produced more data than in all of human civilization before that – and the pace is only accelerating.

It’s not clear what people’s digital presences will look like in years to come, but it’s sure that an increasing number of people will be creating and accumulating growing reams of data until the day they die. But then what?

The law is very clear about handling paper documents and other physical property when someone dies. But as a law professor at Drake Law School who has been studying property transfers for years, I've seen that laws, regulations and court rulings are only recently trying to figure out how to handle the ever-changing realm of digital technology. So far, in most cases the information is controlled by the companies that store it – regardless of what users want or direct to happen after their death.

Law catching up with technology

Many people have had email and other digital accounts for decades, some stretching back to the early pioneers in the 1960s. But large numbers of average people really only began creating significant digital footprints in the early part of the 21st century. Facebook and Gmail began operations in 2004; YouTube started in 2005; Twitter launched in 2006; the iPhone came out in 2007.

Almost a decade later, a group of lawyers from around the country developed a draft uniform law they encouraged all 50 states to adopt, which would allow people to specify in their wills that the executor of their estate can access their email and social media profiles. So far, 39 state legislatures have adopted it and seven more are considering it this year.

The uniform law doesn't specify – and courts have not yet been asked to rule on – exactly how that access should happen. So for the moment, a dead person's executor must contact the company behind each digital platform to determine how to get into the person's accounts.

In states that haven't passed this law, companies themselves can decide whether to allow loved ones access to a late relative's digital assets. Yahoo, for example, is notorious for terminating an account upon a user’s death and forbidding access afterward.

The company’s refusal to grant access to surviving family members is being challenged in Massachusetts, a state that has not adopted the uniform digital assets law. In October 2017, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that an executor could consent to the disclosure of emails on behalf of the dead person whose estate was being managed. The case is back before a lower court to decide on other issues, including whether the estate will be able to access the account despite Yahoo’s terms of service agreement.

The role of privacy

With so many legal issues yet to be decided, people should be sure they include digital assets in their estate planning and encourage their loved ones to do the same.

Access to the email of a person who has died may be the most important to unlock: Messages and images are likely to be emotionally important. In addition, banking, utilities and other accounts are often linked to an email address; gaining online access to those can help administer a person’s estate.

Of course, it’s important to protect the privacy of a person who has died – despite the general legal assumption that a dead person no longer has privacy that needs protecting. The uniform state law does this by requiring a person to have left specific written permission for an executor to access an email account.

Making plans for yourself

To prepare yourself for a digital afterlife, the first task is to state, in writing, what you want to happen to your digital assets. Create a list of the accounts in your name, and determine which ones you want your executor to access – and which should be deleted.

Crucially, do not list usernames or passwords in your will, because a person's will becomes a public document upon their death. Instead, consider recording access information for these accounts in a safe place – like password management software – and leave instructions for your executor to find them.

It's not yet clear whether credits and purchases with digital media accounts (like the Google Play Store or iTunes) or online reward account points can be transferred when their holder dies. The only solution for now may be to leave your executor with instructions on how to access the value stored in those accounts – and back up the media on external hard drives stored in a safe place.

Finally, check with the companies whose online services you use to see if they provide their own method to transfer assets at death. For example, Google has pioneered a method for its users to indicate what they want to have happen to their account if they don't access it for several months.

By engaging in some simple estate planning, you can protect your privacy as well as ease the management of your estate after your death. Plan for your digital assets in the same way you would any other valuable tangible or intangible asset. After all, digital assets are today's shoe boxes of photos, letters and other mementos. Planning can preserve your legacy in its digital form.

Natalie Banta is an associate professor of law at Drake University.

Anderson defends Olympic gold in slopestyle

By Rachel Axon, USA Today

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Jamie Anderson of Meyers is golden again.

Four years after she won gold in snowboard slopestyle's debut in the Games, Anderson claimed another here in PyeongChang. With strong winds gusting throughout the competition, Anderson took the lead on her first run with a score of 83 and it was enough. Laurie Blouin of Canada won silver and Finland's Enni Rukajarvi took bronze.

Read the whole story

Opinion: How Kerry is being treated is horrific

By Tony O'Rourke

On Feb. 8, 2018, the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*, based on seven anonymous sources, destroyed City Manager Nancy Kerry's reputation. As the former city manager prior to Nancy Kerry, I know the challenges, rewards, and pitfalls of managing cities. Given the average tenure of a city manager is three to five years, it is not uncommon for city managers and city councils to amicably part ways.

What is not common is how Nancy Kerry has been treated or better yet, mistreated and personally defamed in an effort to summarily terminate her without due process and fair compensation as called for in her contract with the city.


Tony O’Rourke

First, when do seven anonymous people get to define Nancy Kerry? A fair and reasonable person would examine and weigh her exceptional 10-year tenure with the city; in particular the past 5.5 years as city manager. Nancy’s annual evaluations during her tenure have all been outstanding. In her most recent June 2017 performance evaluation, conducted on behalf of the City Council by nationally recognized City Manager Ted Gaebler, Nancy was rated between outstanding and excellent. Mr. Gaebler personally stated in his review, “I rarely have seen this among city managers.”

As a result of Nancy’s June 2017 evaluation, then-Mayor Austin Sass and the City Council awarded Nancy a 5 percent pay raise and restored a $600 monthly car allowance.

In October 2017, the City Council, covertly via the city attorney, hired Mary Egan of Municipal Resource Group, to conduct an organizational climate survey for $10,000. Organizational climate surveys are an excellent method to identify organizational strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement. During my tenure with South Lake Tahoe we retained Bill Chiatt of the Alta Mesa Group to conduct two annual organizational assessments in 2010 and 2011. Unlike the current City Council’s secretive Mary Egan study, the 2010 and 2011 organizational assessment reports were shared with the City Council, city employees, the public and media.

The organizational assessments were important because to eliminate a $5.2 million deficit in 2010, as well as, a projected five-year financial shortfall of $25 million, I had to recommend the elimination of 25 percent of the city workforce, and 40 percent of its senior management. The City Council unanimously endorsed these "right sizing" initiatives to ensure the financial health and sustainability of the city. Four California municipalities; Stockton, Vallejo, San Bernardino and Mammoth Lakes all filed for bankruptcy during this time period.

As a result of these tough decisions, I was frequently a lightning rod for criticism. As a city manager you learn to accept this as an agent of change and progress. What you don't expect or accept are unfounded anonymous allegations that result in defamation and your dismissal. If someone has a valid complaint and evidence of wrong doing, they should publicly share it; for as Justice Louis Brandies so eloquently stated, "Sunlight is the best disinfectant."

The difference in my and Nancy's situation is the covert and anonymous character of her critics. She has been found guilty of creating a "toxic" work environment, in the absence of any due process or public evidence. She has been personally and professionally defamed based on mere allegations. What happened to the right to face your accusers? Where is there public evidence of these allegations? This matter is a political hatchet job perpetuated by a few.

Of the seven anonymous sources attacking Nancy, three are currently city employees. This represents 1.5 percent of all city employees. The other four are former city employees. Given there are hundreds of former city employees, they too represent a tiny fraction of former city employees.

In summary, Nancy Kerry has been unfairly criticized and defamed in a rush to judgment based on seven anonymous individuals in a city organization of 200 and a community of 21,000. She has not been afforded any due process, provided any evidence to support allegations against her or been provided the right to face her accusers. Nancy's witch hunt and defamation is abhorrent to the America our constitutional and individual liberties are founded upon, and our military bravely defends and fights for. South Lake Tahoe needs to stand up to and defeat this modern day digital and covert McCarthyism, or others in the community will be next.

Tony O'Rourke was the city manager of South Lake Tahoe before Nancy Kerry.

Woman found dead in West Shore residence

Updated 7:22pm:

El Dorado County sheriff's detectives are investigating a suspicious death of a woman at a Tahoma residence.

Deputies were called to the area of Timber Wolf Drive and Alder Street at 12:40pm on Feb. 11 because of shots fired.

Deputies arrived and said they heard gunshots "from the area of a known felon's address."

The suspect fled, with a pursuit ending at Homewood Mountain Resort. Deputies used spike strips to stop the vehicle.

Although EDSO must release the name, hometown and age of the arrested person, as well as the charges he was booked on, they have not done so.

The deceased was reportedly a romantic interest of the suspect’s at some point.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

South Lake Tahoe man dies in house fire

Updated 6:30pm:

A South Lake Tahoe man died in a house fire on Sunday afternoon.

The name and age of the victim have not been released.

The fire was first reported at 1:42pm Feb. 11 at 933 Brockway Ave.

The fire did not do that much damage to the structure. The origin of the fire was near where the victim was on the couch, Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News.*

He said the cause of the fire was a “cigarette into the couch.”

An autopsy is scheduled.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Placer County, NLTRA responsibilities change

By Sage Sauerbrey, Moonshine Ink

It’s been just less than one year since Placer County stunned the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association with the announcement that it was cutting the organization’s duties in half, and in turn drastically reducing its funding. In truth, it was the culmination of more than a decade of cutbacks to the resort association’s contract with the county, and long simmering tensions boiled over.

The latest cutbacks were staunchly opposed at first, but in the latest contract and the upcoming fiscal year, the changes are sticking. The dust has settled, and while the relationship between the resort association and the county appears by all means to be amicable, there is no doubt the county has firmly established control.

Of the association’s original three departments – marketing, transportation, and capital projects – the latter two have been eliminated and the responsibilities associated with them divvyed up, leaving NLTRA primarily as a marketing organization, now dubbed “tourism development.”

The entities that will fill the gap in the resort association’s former duties will have a primarily advisory role in the county’s allocation of its rapidly growing fund of lodging tax collections. For the county, the changes signal success in restructuring an organization it believed was incapable of handling its duties. For many locally, the newest hierarchy represents a shift of tourism-related tax funds away from the community and an unnecessary and expensive divide-and-conquer strategy to oversight.

Read the whole story