Bass buys TWC building; legal issues continue

By Kathryn Reed

After much legal wrangling, Cody Bass is the official owner of the center that houses his Tahoe Wellness Cooperative in South Lake Tahoe.

The paperwork was recorded July 9.

Still to be determined is who will own the house that was once the home of pioneer family Neal and Patty Olson. Patty Olson moved from the residence near Timber Cove a few years ago, with the family trust still retaining title.

Bass and Bob Hassett are battling over that parcel in court. Hassett has long operated the nearby marina operations and owns an apartment complex in the vicinity.

“As much as I would like to comment, due to ongoing litigation, I cannot,” Bob Hassett told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Bass said Hassett “colluded” with Olson’s son in a deal to get the residence. Patrick Olson has at various times been in charge of his mother’s estate, with many of the belief this was to her detriment. Bass believes he will prevail because he had an option to purchase the residential property eight months prior to Hassett’s offer.

Olson had long owned the property where TWC is located. It ended up in bankruptcy a few years ago, which kept it from being foreclosed on. Bass had wanted the property in order to have more control over the future of his medical marijuana business and to be able to expand.

“Such a sale would not impact Cody’s lawsuit against the city. The lawsuit challenges the decision of the City Council to uphold the prior city manager’s determination not to renew his dispensary permit. In making its decision, the court will only consider evidence that was before the council at the time the council made its decision,” interim South Lake Tahoe City Attorney Nira Doherty told *Lake Tahoe News.* “Therefore, if escrow indeed closed … that evidence would not be something the court would consider when deciding whether or not the City Council and prior city manager abused their discretion.”

Bass said he sued the city after being denied a permit to operate his collective. The city says he didn’t have a signature from Olson, the landlord, to be there. He said he did. The court has allowed him to continue to operate as the proceedings keep going.

Doherty said the last hearing was two weeks ago and that she expects a ruling within two to six weeks. Bass said there is a status conference scheduled for this Friday, and said it could be quite a while before there is resolution within the courts.

Bass said he would like to settle with the city, but prior to doing so wants a final count from El Dorado County regarding the initiative he is trying to get on the November ballot. He is hoping for final numbers on Friday. He also said keeping the lawsuit active would be beneficial to his legal issues with the residential property.

If the city were to allow TWC to operate at its present location and to have the licenses for adult use marijuana that are equivalent to what it is doing with medicinal pot, Bass said the lawsuit and initiative would disappear.

Bass has been in business going on 10 years. The present council wants him to go through the same application process as all potential recreational marijuana businesses instead of letting him have permits to coincide with his medical

operation. Most cities in California grandfathered in existing pot shops. South Lake Tahoe officials say the Bijou location doesn't meet zoning regulations for cultivation and extraction, even though TWC has been allowed to perform these deeds for nearly a decade.

Bass has plans to improve the building he just closed on, including putting on a second floor for his operation. In 18 to 24 months he'd like a second level where cultivation and extraction would be located. The bottom floor would be expanded to handle recreation sales.



Cody Bass, owner of Tahoe Wellnes Cooperative

For now, he'd like to fill the former bank slot with an office supply store or some white collar business. Then in three years or so he wants to put in a market/deli along the lines of the West Shore Market.

Bass also intends to create a hallway from TWC to the bank vault.

"As we get to a higher volume we need the vault to comply with regulations," Bass told *Lake Tahoe News.*

He envisions a restaurant replacing the former music store and coffee shop.

On top of all the legal issues and becoming a landlord, Bass

has also been dealing with changes to state law that has affected supplies of medicine. This has been a conundrum for all dispensaries in California. Rules changed July 1 affecting labeling, which affected distribution.

TWC on July 1 had seven products; normal is 287. As of July 11 there were 38, with the hope of having more than 100 by Friday, and then for the issue to fully correct itself.

Opinion: How the NFL and U.S. politicians politicized

By Jesse Berrett

In January 1942, as the United States committed itself fully to World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt decided that baseball, then the national pastime, should sustain civilian morale during the lengthy struggle ahead. He implored its commissioner, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, to make sure the games went on, despite worldwide armed conflict. And so they did. Professional baseball players, Roosevelt argued, “are a definite recreational asset.”

Roosevelt did not extend that consideration to professional football players, whose sport did not register politically. As a result, the NFL nearly shut its doors during World War II. So many players were called to serve that several franchises had to merge. In fact, the league didn’t take off until it closely associated itself with national politics. For the last half-century, the intertwining of American football and politics has sustained both pastimes, and no one played both games more enthusiastically than Richard Nixon.

By the 1960s the United States was involved in a different war, and the politics of sport had changed, nowhere more so than in the nation's capital. Washington was "a male town, and football is its game . . . the right metaphor for its politics," journalist Hedrick Smith wrote. "Not to possess Redskins season tickets spells a fatal absence of status," observed Mary McGrory, an astute observer of local mores. The *Washington Post* detailed David Broder, its prize-winning political columnist, to cover a preseason game. The Harris poll named football America's most popular sport in 1965, the Gallup poll in 1972.

What had changed? The NFL, to grow its business, spent the post-war decades single-mindedly pursuing cultural currency. Under PR-conscious Commissioner Pete Rozelle, who took the job in 1960, the effort resembled nothing so much as an advertising campaign: in Rozelle's mind, "anything that caused people to connect with pro football" would do. Conveniently enough, that's exactly where politics were heading. "We're moving into a period where a man is going to be merchandised on television more and more," a Nixon aide explained to a reporter in 1968.

The NFL published its own books, made its own movies, and eventually sponsored an essay contest officially certified as part of the 1976 bicentennial celebrations. NFL Creative Services' books depicted professional football as the essential expression of a complex and multifarious America. NFL Films sold viewers a vision of the game as a spectacular, vivid, and heroic showcase for passionate excellence.

The NFL's intention was to persuade audiences both popular and elite that the sport deserved support because it was quintessentially American, perfectly in tune with the contemporary world, and deserving of solicitude should it encounter any legal roadblocks.

But the NFL never stopped politicking. Its cultural

productions went global, usefully extending American soft power while cementing the association between NFL and Americanism.

Politicians benefited as well. Just as the NFL grew more adept at selling itself, so too did political figures begin to cultivate an interest in sports figures. In 1960, the John F. Kennedy campaign "put celebrity-gathering into mass production," as one veteran consultant put it. A Nixon campaign organizer noted that "round[ing] up practically every All-American here" had helped the Republicans carry California.

Soon every politician was seeking out jocks. In 1968, Bobby Kennedy's recruiters noted that athletic endorsements paid big dividends because "you are dealing with people who usually get press on their own steam." Hubert Humphrey directed his campaign toward sympathetic sportswriters, attempted to get an article published in *Sports Illustrated* on the virtues of competition, and even scooped up Kennedy's "top recruits" two days after his assassination. "With luck, if Teddy doesn't run," they could be enticed to hit the campaign trail for Humphrey.

Politicians across the spectrum hobnobbed with players and coaches, endorsed the campaigns of former players, and exerted themselves to win new franchises for their states. By the mid-70s, the collective intertwining of what one reporter called the "sport of politics and the politics of sport" had become inextricable.

The coziness between football and power rendered lobbying almost unnecessary: Lawrence O'Brien, Lyndon Johnson's special assistant for congressional relations, recalled "inordinate efforts on behalf of the NFL in the Senate" by Senators in "constant quest…for a franchise location in their state." No wonder that, when House Judiciary committee chair Emanuel Celler stalled a bill allowing the NFL to bypass the Sherman

Anti-Trust Act and merge with the rival AFL in the fall of 1966, the House and Senate majority whips, Louisianans Hale Boggs and Russell Long, schemed to push it through the Ways and Means Committee. All it took was for the NFL to establish a team in New Orleans. “Pro football provides the circus for the hordes,” a disgusted Celler remarked.

In 1973, the House Interstate Commerce subcommittee “rammed through” without debate an NFL-backed measure preserving TV blackout rights for games that had not sold out 72 hours before their scheduled start. That blackout rule created incentives for fans and even cities to buy up unsold tickets. Without a sellout, TV stations would not show the home team’s games.

“It’s not true that Congress is divided, paralyzed, and unable to act with decision and leadership,” the journalist Nicholas von Hoffman acidly commented. “The pro football fans of America will be able to see their teams’ home games this year on television.”

Football on film sold America in ways that politicians liked. NFL Films perfected its craft with its magnum opus, “They Call It Pro Football.” Made in 1967, the 25-minute documentary neatly served the propagandistic, promotional, and political needs of both the league and the Defense Department. A number of reviews recognized the film’s social significance without fully grasping its extent, one extolling the “beauty and violence of the game—and its impact on the entire country.” At a briefing discussing how to sustain the morale of soldiers in Vietnam, General Creighton Abrams told Defense Secretary Melvin Laird that the men wanted football games.

“These films are important to them,” Abrams said.

“We better call Rozelle up tonight,” replied Laird, who quickly pledged “a two-minute bureaucratic drill” to ensure that the Armed Forces Network provided servicemen with more

televised football.

Their bosses enjoyed these movies just as much. Secretary of State William Rogers brought a supply of NFL films on tour to show to foreign diplomats in the Far East in 1969. Air Force One flew an NFL film to Lyndon Johnson's ranch in Texas, and Nixon later ordered a big-hits special for the White House. NFL Films' productions were shown at the Continental Hotel in Paris, where homesick fans could savor the national pastime while munching hot dogs. They became a staple of life at military bases and on Navy submarines; and even in Saudi Arabia, where oil companies ordered copies of the films to console "American workers far from home."

By the 1972 election, the merger between politics and football seemed almost complete. In April 1972, George McGovern announced an athletes' committee heavy on football players. Its chair, Redskins guard Ray Schoenke, a history major and academic All-American at SMU, had walked into McGovern's office the previous summer and volunteered his services. Schoenke made himself a one-man political operation. He handed out campaign literature at training camp, obtained rosters from the league office, and worked the phones every night.

But McGovern got crushed by Nixon in what a disappointed journalist panned as "one of the dullest political football games ever played before a nationwide TV audience." No surprise. He was up against the country's most football-friendly president.

Richard Nixon was a football fanatic who did the most to turn the game to political ends. Nixon's connections to the sport ran deep. He frequently credited his coach at Whittier College, Chief Newman, with teaching him never to quit. He officially kicked off his first campaign for president on Whittier's field before 20,000 roaring supporters and thanked Newman when accepting the Republican nomination in 1968. In his final memoir, "In the Arena," Nixon recalled that "I

learned more about life sitting on the bench with Chief Newman than I did by getting A's in philosophy courses."

He was not averse to putting those lessons to use. Nixon and his staff invoked football and attended games at strategic junctures throughout 1969 and 1970 with clear political intentions.

In November 1969, the administration countered nationwide anti-war marches with National Unity Week, featuring flag displays and what a White House memo called "a patriotic theme or event" at halftime of every televised college football game. Nixon told reporters that he was going to spend the Saturday afternoon of the march the right way: "It was a good day to watch a football game."

The next fall, he kicked off his campaign for a Republican Congress before an enthusiastic crowd at Kansas State by contrasting the school's football team (good) with youth protest (bad). He followed that up by sharing a podium with Ohio State coach Woody Hayes, celebrating the recently-deceased Vince Lombardi as "an apostle of teamwork," and accompanying the secretary of Defense and Wisconsin's Republican candidates for senator and governor to Bart Starr Day, an event honoring the legendary Packer quarterback in Green Bay. A reporter traveling with the campaign found Nixon's rah-rah approach utterly predictable: "It may be hard for some politicians to reduce a major political campaign to football terms, but not this one."

In 1971, Newman's successor at Whittier, George Allen, became coach of the Redskins. Nixon and Allen had supported each other's endeavors since the 1950s, and the relationship deepened in Washington. Allen campaigned for Nixon and attended White House functions, and Nixon sent Allen a shoebox-full of notes, called him at home, and even attended practice at Allen's invitation in 1971 to encourage his players.

The 1972 convention ratified what Nixon's Republican detractors termed "game-plan politics." "The president likes football analogies, and the relationships of field position and ball control were the essential elements of what the campaign organization tried to do," the head of his advertising agency explained about the smoothly-run spectacle.

Bart Starr introduced convention chair Gerald Ford, and newly-elected New York Rep. Jack Kemp, a former NFL quarterback and "No.1 [political] draft choice," as a Sports Illustrated reporter following his campaign had described him, gave an "electrifying" speech seconding the nomination of Spiro Agnew. Numerous Republican power brokers nurtured Kemp's political ambitions for a decade: Herb Klein, Nixon's communications director, gave him a newspaper column, Reagan and the RNC hired him, and the White House publicly supported (and graced him with a congratulatory phone call after) his first run for Congress.

Despite Nixon's electoral dominance, football's triumph wasn't partisan. No single participant succeeded in cementing a dominant political meaning for the nation's most popular sport. Instead, football's popularity provided a new language for politics and debate. Was one candidate trying a Hail Mary with a last-minute attack? Was another running out the clock with a lead? Had miscommunication in the Congressional huddle made a key bill fail? A political scientist complained in 1975 that "the discourse of politics" threatened to be "completely absorbed by the language of sports."

The NFL, a profit-minded entity, both cultivated and profited from all this political attention. So when Richard Nixon told the crowd at Bart Starr Day that "the 1960s will be described as the decade when football became the No. 1 sport," that sport's number-one fan was merely adding a presidential signature to what a broad popular referendum had already decreed.

Jesse Berrett teaches history at University High School in San Francisco. He is author of "Pigskin Nation: How the NFL Remade American Politics" (University of Illinois Press, 2018).

Scientists predicted impacts of climate change

By Jason Samenow, Washington Post

Temperatures shot up over 110 degrees in Southern California on Friday, obliterating all kinds of long-standing heat records, and the lights went out for tens of thousands of customers. Californians were powerless, without air conditioning, in the hottest weather many had ever experienced.

Climate scientists have known this was coming, and it may only be the beginning.

"We studied this a long time ago . . . now our projections are becoming reality," tweeted Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University.

In 2006, Hayhoe and colleagues published the study "Climate, Extreme Heat, and Electricity Demand in California" in the Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology.

Read the whole story

Consequences of repealing Calif. gas tax

By Caitlin Chen, Sacramento Bee

A November ballot measure to repeal California's recent gas tax increase threatens road improvement and maintenance projects that receive funding through the tax.

The initiative, which requires voter approval for any new gas tax increase, is retroactive to the beginning of 2017, effectively stopping the new fees created when lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1 last year. State and local infrastructure projects would not receive funding beyond the current fiscal year.

The California Department of Transportation and local agencies say they would try to finish all active projects, but projects that haven't started construction would have to be canceled, downsized or delayed indefinitely.

Read the whole story

Natalie Gulbis withdraws from celebrity golf tournament

By Angel Guerrero, Sacramento Bee

Natalie Gulbis withdrew her name Sunday from the American Century Championship due to an undisclosed family emergency, according to a tournament spokesman.

Gulbis, a Sacramento native who was on the comeback trail after a third back surgery, made the cut in an LPGA tournament for the first time since 2015 in April. She has failed to make the cut in her last four tournaments.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

· The South Lake Tahoe Library will host Mad Science on July 13. The free outdoor show starts at 2pm at 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd. Mad Science will be performing their show Spin, Pop Boom where kids will be taught about basic chemistry while seeing experiments such as an explosive foam factory.

· The Active 20 – 30 Club of the Carson Valley has donated $5,000 to the Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department for youth participating in county sports programs.

· South Lake Tahoe Library will be hosting an art program for children ages 8-13 on July 19 from 2-3pm. Children will learn about abstract art and create an artwork of their own to keep. Space is limited, registration required by calling 530.573.3185.

· Donna Sohan started at Lake Tahoe Community College this week as director of Institutional Effectiveness.

Letter: Sunbeam Blinds helps serve food

To the community,

On July 2, Sunbeam Blind Company sponsored Bread & Broth's Adopt a Day of Nourishment, and owners Kurt and Laura Rasmussen crewed alongside of the B&B volunteers to serve 88 meals to very grateful dinner guests.

Sunbeam Blind has been a sponsor every year since 2016 and B&B is very appreciative of their ongoing support of our AAD program.

It is truly a pleasure to have Adopt A Day of Nourishment sponsors come back year after year and host a Bread & Broth Monday meal. Bread & Broth AAD sponsors enjoy serving others and lending a helping hand while finding the experience of participating in their sponsored dinner humbling and uplifting.

"It's always a pleasure to assist the dedicated regular volunteers at Bread & Broth," commented Laura. "Everything about his program is beneficial to our community. Food insecurity is an ongoing issue for people and B&B provides the grateful guests with a nutritious and delicious meal along with to go bags of food every week. We are happy to play a small part in making a difference for our neighbors and we'll be back again."

Kudos to Laura and Kurt for their compassion and empathy for those who struggle with food insecurity. Bread & Broth is proud to partner with Sunbeam Blind Company and appreciates Kurt and Laura for their enthusiastic support of the Adopt A Day of Nourishment program.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Eldorado Forest to implement fire restrictions

Fire restrictions go into effect on the Eldorado National Forest on July 14.

Wood and charcoal fires will be restricted to designated recreation sites and other fire related activities will be prohibited until the end of fire season. Gas or propane fires are allowed with a free 2018 California campfire permit.

Fire restrictions mean:

- No wood or charcoal fires are allowed outside of exempted recreation sites even with a valid campfire permit.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building or exempted recreation site.
- Operating a welding or other torch with an open flame is prohibited.
- Operating an internal combustion engine without a properly operating spark arrestor is prohibited.
- Lanterns and portable stoves using gas, kerosene, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed with a valid permit.
- Those with a valid 2018 wood cutting permit may cut firewood in compliance with the terms of their permit.
- Motor vehicles are allowed only on designated National Forest System roads, routes, trails and areas.

Questions may be directed to 530.622.5061.

State sanctuary battle rages on in Placer County

By Emily Cadei, Sacramento Bee

Placer County residents crammed a Board of Supervisors' meeting in Auburn on July 10 to air their opinions on Senate Bill 54, the state law that limits the ability of state and local law enforcement to help federal agents enforce immigration law.

Local officials estimated more than 150 people turned out for the 1m meeting, filling the auditorium and two overflow rooms, to provide feedback on a resolution opposing SB54. Public testimony went on for hours. A handful of officers from the Placer County sheriff's office patrolled the gathering, which was occasionally testy but never violent.

The meeting came just 24 hours after U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez approved California's motion to throw out the Trump administration's lawsuit challenging the sanctuary state law.

Read the whole story

Drug company's lawsuit could derail Nev. execution

By Associated Press

A Nevada inmate slated to die by a three-drug lethal injection combination never before used in the U.S. has said repeatedly he wants his sentence carried out and he doesn’t care if it’s painful.

But a last-minute lawsuit filed by a drug company that doesn’t want its product used in “botched” executions could derail Scott Raymond Dozier’s scheduled Wednesday execution.

New Jersey-based Alvogen filed court documents Tuesday saying Nevada prison officials illegally obtained the sedative midazolam and demanding it be returned and not used in Dozier’s execution.

Read the whole story