

Wrong-way driver killed, 1 other seriously hurt

A South Lake Tahoe woman continues to fight for her life after her vehicle was struck by a driver going the wrong direction on Interstate 80.

The collision occurred Oct. 12 about 11:54pm on westbound I-80 near Verdi.

According to the Nevada Highway Patrol, James Liston, 39, of Reno entered the freeway in the wrong direction somewhere between West McCarran and Mogul. His vehicle struck the front of a 2008 silver Toyota 4Runner causing his Mitsubishi to overturn and catch fire. Liston was not able to get out of the vehicle and died at the scene.

The local woman, whose name has not been released, was taken to Renown Medical Center in Reno with life threatening injuries.

Impairment may have been a contributing factor in this crash, according to officers.

Anyone who may have information related to this crash, is asked to call 775.687.9631 or email jdlitchie@dps.state.nv.us.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

STPUD water main break

quickly fixed

South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District customers were without water this morning when a water line was severed.

A contractor early Oct. 16 struck a 14-inch line at Cedar Avenue and La Salle Street near the state line.

It is not known how many customers were without water. Some just experience low pressure. Service was restore by 10:15am.

“Up to 60 percent of the district’s customers from Stateline to the Y may have experienced low water pressure for about an hour between 9-10am this morning as a result of the broken water main,” Shelly Thomsen with STPUD told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Thousands of gallons of water was lost.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Tahoe City businesses ready for another winter

By Alexandra Spychalsky, Moonshine Ink

When General Manager Jeff Hill walked into Jake’s on the Lake on the morning of Jan. 8, the sound of falling raindrops echoed through the restaurant. But it wasn’t pitter-patter from a storm outside. It was the sound of rushing water coming from inside the restaurant, a literal indoor torrential rainstorm in the middle of the almost 40-year-old restaurant

that has long been one of Tahoe City's favorites.

Snowpocalypse. Januburied. Snowmageddon. These were some of the nicknames given to last winter. The severity of it shocked even the most seasoned locals.

But some businesses were dealt a lot worse than an increased shoveling load and the occasional power outage. At Boatworks Mall on the lake in Tahoe City, a number of businesses sustained substantial flooding, shuttering them for months. It was a hard-fought battle to renovate and reopen, but after months in the dark, these businesses are now thriving once again.

Thanks to the tenacity of the owners, managers, and employees, as well as the unwavering support of the community, they are ready to take on another Tahoe winter.

Read the whole story

Firefighter dies; containment grows in Wine Country

By San Francisco Chronicle

Latest developments in the North Bay fires:

8am: Firefighter killed in tanker crash: A water tanker crashed on a winding Napa County road near where firefighters are battling the northern edge of the Nuns Fire, and the driver was killed, officials said.

7:15am: Firefighters making progress: The Atlas Fire is now 68 percent contained – up from 56 percent containment on Sunday.

Over the past 24 hours, it grew in size by only 7 acres, to 51,064 acres.

“Firefighters continue to strengthen perimeter control lines, provide structure defense and engage in tactical patrol,” CalFire said in a statement. The Nuns / Adobe / Norbbom/ Pressley / Partrick Fires, at 48,627 acres, are now 50 percent contained, and the Tubbs Fire, at 36,390 acres, is 70 percent contained.

[Read the whole story](#)

Nevadans sue Sandoval over gun background check law

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – A lawsuit has been filed against Gov. Brian Sandoval over the state’s failure to implement a private gun sale background check approved by voters in November 2016.

The lawsuit on behalf of Nevada residents Dale Zusi, Vicki Delatorre and Sydney Gordon was filed Thursday in Clark County District Court.

The lawsuit says the case “is about the refusal of the Governor of Nevada to discharge one of his most fundamental constitutional obligations – to see that the laws of this state are faithfully executed.”

[Read the whole story](#)

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



China and Sunflower

China and Sunflower are 3-year-old bonded brothers who need a home together. They were loved in their previous home, but their owner cannot keep them. Their adoption fee has been partially paid.

China and Sunflower are neutered, microchipped, tested for FIV, and vaccinated. They are at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

– Karen Kuentz

3 people to replace retiring EDC elections guru



Bill Schultz is an institution within El Dorado County. Photo/Provided

By Susan Wood

When you're a county dealing with record voter turnout as El Dorado did last year, you turn to a career record-keeping shoe-in to maintain order in this unpredictable world of government and politics. That is, until you can't anymore.

El Dorado County Registrar of Voters Bill Schultz, 84, has become a guru in local government since his humble beginnings decades ago with the county. So much so, it's going to take more than a year and probably more than one person to gear up for his leaving and to fill his shoes.

Schultz, who also serves as the recorder clerk and the Veteran Affairs director, is retiring in January 2019 – but not before leaving his mark as a fixture to county government.

Essentially, he's opting out of re-election next year.

"The big thing is I've been working since I was 12 years old. It's going to be interesting to be out of a job," Schultz said, further insisting he's placing "relaxing" on a to-do list. "I've done everything I've wanted to do. It's time to spend some time with my family and friends."

Schultz said he's looking forward to retirement, but the question remains: Will he stay busy enough to satisfy his insatiable need to serve, judging from the long list of accomplishments he's racked up through decades of ambitious programs and forward-thinking projects?

Perhaps the kind of service he'll provide is on the tennis courts – another passion beyond work and family. Schultz received a gold medal in the sport at the Northern California Senior Olympics.



Tennis is one of Bill Schultz's passions – so is winning. Photo/Provided

If county government could hand out medals for overachievement in the area of employee ingenuity, Schultz would probably get

one.

He began employment with El Dorado County in 1974 in a post called the service unit supervisor, which meant overseeing functions such as micrographics, printing and communications.

From that post, he became a jack of all trades as the county purchasing agent, general services director, interim welfare director, sheriff's administrative assistant, communications director, 911 installation coordinator and even the airport director to the three regional airports in Placerville, South Lake Tahoe and Georgetown.

Knowledge of so many disciplines in county government came in handy when he worked as the records management coordinator. It took him more than a year to sort through all of the county's records in storage and converted space underneath the library into an organized facility capable of holding 17,000 boxes of records. He modeled the program after the state's.

In between, he took a break from the county from 1980 to 1990 when he became an operations manager for XeneX Computer Systems, a data processing firm for the financial industry. After all, he had a background in banking upon moving to Placerville in 1972 after serving in the Navy.

Dedication to service is engrained in Schultz. He served four terms during the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1969.

His dedication to the military, which was embedded as a child since his father was also in the Navy, stayed with him during his tenure starting at 2004 as the county registrar – the chief of the elections department.

It was in this role Schultz admits he performed an accomplishment he's most proud of. In 2012, he applied for and received a \$1 million grant from the Federal Voting Commission to better assist military voters overseas.

Still, Schultz has not rested in his ambitious goals. He volunteered the county as one to help the state implement a statewide Voter Registration System before 2017. The prior year, the deadline was met. His meticulous record-keeping skills netted \$87,000 to the county for its participation.

And timing is everything, depending on one's perspective.

As it turns out, the 2016 presidential election churned out more registered voters than ever in El Dorado County. It's one of the first in the state to start online electronic recording due to Schultz's efforts. Voter turnout was a record 83 percent last November.

This year, Schultz and his staff are busy preparing for yet another election. South Lake Tahoe, in particular, has a key roads initiative on the ballot – Measure C.

Next year, the elections cycles continue. To replace Schultz would seem like an insurmountable task. For one thing, it may take three people to fill his three jobs. The next recorder-clerk will be elected either in June or November of 2018. The registrar position will be appointed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

"OK, so what are we going to do? Our superman is leaving," county Supervisor Sue Novasel said, recalling her reaction to the news.



□Bill Schultz is a 40-year member of the Fleet Reserve Association. Photo/Provided

The county is currently trying to figure out constitutionally how to separate the recorder-clerk and registrar positions, along with the Veteran Affairs chief, because “it would be very difficult to fill all three positions with one person,” Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News*.

“He’s done an amazing job for the county and is really going to be missed,” she said, calling Schultz “a wealth of information.”

One of the aspects to Schultz’s personality that Novasel mentioned as being refreshing to those who work with him is his soft, cool-as-a-cucumber demeanor.

Linda Webster, the registrar's assistant for four years, knows firsthand what it's like to work for Schultz, whom she commended for taking the elections department from hand-stamping to computer electronics.

First, Webster noted she'll miss his passion about his responsibilities as well as his management style.

"He's not a micromanager. He very much recognizes employees' abilities and strong points. He clears obstacles to allow us to do our jobs and makes sure we have all the tools to conduct our business," she told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The end result amounted to a close-knit elections department.

"I've known Bill for a long time. He really turned this department around in several ways. He'll be well-missed by the county in general and hard to replace," elections systems coordinator Joe Zitzelberger said.

The data-crunching guru added that unlike other department managers Schultz provides an office atmosphere absent of stress – a notable feat considering the fast-paced elections environment.

But most of all, it's Schultz's folksy, even-keel, respectful temperament that those familiar with his work ethics and management style say are rare in the working world.

"I don't feel like I'm working for him, I'm working with him," Zitzelberger said.

Opinion: Trump is bad for skiing

By Marc Peruzzi, Outside

This is not the beginning of a partisan smear campaign like the seminal “CHENEY SKIS IN JEANS” bumper stickers popular in Jackson Hole in the early aughts. Once upon a time, years before President Trump subscribed to the human-body-as-depletable-battery school of exercise avoidance, he was a skier. His children fondly remember racing dear old dad to the bottom.* Years later, they told an interviewer that Father Trump would shove them over if they attempted to pass.

No, what follows are just the facts: Trump is a clear and present danger to skiing as an industry. His bombastic speeches and immigration policies are worse than January rain when it comes to the dollars and cents and powder days that support the sport.

In a *Wall Street Journal* essay last month, Aspen Ski Co. President and CEO Mike Kaplan blamed the “xenophobia radiating from the Oval Office” for the dip in Mexican tourism the resort saw last year. Visits by this demographic—a core market for all the major Colorado ski resorts—fell by 30 percent. Think about it: If Mexico’s president called you a rapist and a drug dealer and said he was going to build a wall and make you pay for it, would you book a trip to Cancun?

In response to that tourism falloff and the Trump-propagated national intolerance, Aspen—which has hosted Gay Ski Week and the National Brotherhood of Skiers for years—has launched an ad campaign for the resort built around the slogan, “Love, Respect, Unity, and Commit.” The idea came from an earlier essay Kaplan penned for the *Aspen Daily Times* titled “We’re Still Here,” where he spoke for the reasonable folks in the

ski town who care about things like, you know, the international community and the environment.

Read the whole story

Fires deal economic blow to many poor, elderly

By Marjie Lundstrom, Darrell Smith and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

The wildfires ripping through California have at least 20 different names, in 10 different counties.

The Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County. The monster Atlas Fire in nearby Napa County. The Cascade Fire in rural Yuba County.

And because this is California, with its diverse populations and wildly contrasting geography, the paths to recovery will be a whole lot different, too, according to experts on natural disasters. The survivors who are likely to struggle the most, study after study shows, are the people already struggling: the poor, the disabled, the elderly and children.

Even with financial assistance – and that is iffy – the ability to readily regroup may be out of reach for many Californians displaced by the terrible fires of 2017.

Read the whole story

Tahoe-Truckee tennis players secure seeds for state



Gabbi Fisher with partner Abby Burns will be representing South Tahoe High School at state. Photo/Gina Tarwater

The Tahoe-Truckee area will be well represented at the state championships in tennis.

The NIAA 3A regional championships for the girls and boys high school teams was played in Tahoe Donner in Truckee on Oct. 13-14. The top three singles players and doubles teams go to state in Las Vegas next weekend.

Viki Valente of Incline Village had to beat teammate Kate Tong to win the singles tournament. She did so 6-2, 6-3. Becky Ziegler of Truckee came in third by topping Kayla Mason of South Tahoe High, 6-3, 6-3.

Mason is a sophomore and No. 7 seeded singles player for the Vikings. Her coaches expect her to just keep getting better.

Abby Burns and Gabbi Fisher of South Tahoe dominated the finals with a 6-1, 6-2 bruising of Churchill County's Brynlee Shults and Brooklynn Whitaker.



Abby Burns and Gabbi Fisher

“This team has played together since their freshman year and are best friends. This season they played our No. 1 line every match and only lost one set out of around 30 sets played,” Vikings coach Suzy Allione told *Lake Tahoe News*. “They communicate well, strategically figure out their opponents, and support each other positively.”

Courtney Engberg and Rachel Heath of Truckee finished third.

For the boys, Zach Haas of Truckee was seeded first in the local tournament for a reason. He breezed through his competition, winning the final 6-0, 6-3 against No. 2 seed Lucas Tong of Incline.

Mickey Sullivan of South Tahoe High prevailed for third place, besting Dalton Fry of Incline 6-4, 7-5.

In doubles, it was the Truckee combo of Zach Larson and Noah Warren who came out on top against Myles Getto and Blake Malkovich of Churchill County, 6-3, 6-2. The third seed at state will be Turner Drummond and Patrick Hogan of Truckee. They edged out South Tahoe’s Quinn Proctor and Pete Sullivan, 2-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*