

Judge denies injunction against Nev. pot distribution

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY — A Carson City judge on Monday rejected a request by a group of liquor distributors to stop emergency regulations allowing Nevada marijuana licensees to distribute recreational pot to retail stores.

The case was heard by Carson City District Judge James Todd Russell, who initially expressed skepticism about what emergency existed that required the adoption of the regulations on July 13 by the Nevada Tax Commission.

But after listening to arguments for 90 minutes, Russell denied a request for a temporary restraining order, finding that one reason cited as justification for the regulations, the protection of state tax revenues, had merit.

Read the whole story

Marin County man dies in solo accident on Hwy. 88

A Bay Area man died in a single-vehicle accident on Sunday in Alpine County.

David Martin, 62, of Woodacre was going west on Highway 88 west of the Carson River Bridge when the crash occurred.

Because there were no witnesses to the accident, officers

don't know for sure what happened. However, evidence points to Martin drifting onto the dirt shoulder. The 2001 BMW hit a rock embankment and flipped.

Martin was pronounced dead at the scene on July 23 at 6:20pm.

No one else was in the vehicle.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Ex-Truckee resident indicted on 21 fraud charges

A former Truckee resident faces 21 counts of mail and wire fraud.

A federal grand jury on July 25 indicted 55-year-old Patrick Slavin on charges related to an alleged investment scheme that he ran from 2008 through 2016.

According to court documents, Slavin claimed to have developed a proprietary investment model that guaranteed returns of 12-18 percent that would be paid within one to two years of the investment. He persuaded some individuals to invest by representing that the money would be invested through a "social venture" fund or project that would earn returns by providing capital and services to nonprofit organizations. After the investments were made, Slavin assured investors that their money was earning profits. Based on these assurances, Slavin solicited additional investments or encouraged his investors to rollover their prior investments. Slavin is accused of using a large portion of the investors' money to pay back other investors or for his own personal expenses and

lost the rest in trading.

Overall, investors lost at least \$1.7 million.

If convicted, Slavin faces a maximum 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross loss or gross gain from the fraud scheme.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Fire restrictions in Tahoe National Forest

Fire restrictions go into effect today within the Tahoe National Forest.

This means:

- No open fires, campfires or charcoal fires are allowed on Tahoe National Forest lands outside of designated areas, even with a valid California campfire permit.
- Lanterns and portable stoves using gas, jellied petroleum or pressurized liquid fuel are allowed, unless otherwise restricted, with a valid California campfire permit.
- No welding or operating an acetylene or other torch with an open flame.
- No smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle, building, or designated recreation site or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
- Internal combustion engines are restricted to

National Forest System roads, trails, and areas. Motorized cross-country travel between roads, trails, and areas is prohibited.

Complete details regarding 2017 fire restrictions, including the list of designated recreation sites, are available **online**.

Wind impacts racing event at Lake Tahoe



Elite sailors spent four days at Lake Tahoe, with races culminating July 23. Photo/Rebecca Hinden

By Jake Fish

Following four days of exciting racing in the sparkling waters of Lake Tahoe, Marek Zaleski (Norwalk, Conn.) became the 2017 U.S. Singlehanded Men's Champion and Hanne Weaver (Seattle) became the 2017 U.S. Singlehanded Women's Champion on Sunday.

Held in conjunction with the Laser Class U.S. National Championships and hosted by the Tahoe Yacht Club, the fleets were comprised of experienced and proven singlehanded sailors and an influx of new talented young men and women.

Zaleski's performance was good enough to claim the overall title out of 43 boats in the Full Rig fleet for the Laser Class U.S. National Championship. Although Jake Vickers was a game competitor all week, Zaleski won five of the seven races and was the clear-cut top performer.

U.S. Singlehanded Men's Championship results:

1. Marek Zaleski, Noroton Yacht Club, 1-5-1-1-1-1-[7]- ; 10
2. Jake Vickers, Severn Sailing Association, 3-[6]-4-2-3-3-1- ; 16
3. Caleb Robinson, Sail Maine, 2-[22]-5-13-5-7-5- ; 37
4. Cameron Feves, Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club, 6-9-8-9-[16]-4-13- ; 49
5. Peter Phelan, Santa Cruz Yacht Club, 7-11-7-6-7-14-[44/DSQ]- ; 52

Complete Standings

"The altitude and the water quality are two things that are different about this venue," explained Zaleski. "I'm glad I got here early, because I was struggling when working out on my bike and the water is so clear, the Lasers float a little lower in the water, not a huge difference, but it's noticeable.

"I am campaigning for the 2020 Olympics nonstop," said Zaleski. "I have over 200 days on the water since I graduated last year and a lot of time in the gym working on my fitness. So, it's nice to see good results and that my work is paying off."

Weaver won the U.S. Singlehanded Women's Championship by a 16 point margin over Charlotte Rose. She placed second overall to Chase Carraway out of 55 boats in the Laser Radial fleet.

U.S. Singlehanded Women's Championship results:

1. Hanne Weaver, RVYC, SYC, 3-12-4-2-10-[18]- ; 31
 2. Charlotte Rose, Houston Yacht Club / GCYSA, [23]-14-2-4-14-13- ; 47T
 3. Kelly Cole, OCBC, 7-13-5-14-[56/OCS]-8- ; 47T
 4. Lillian Myers, GCYSP, [18]-11-17-6-6-9- ; 49
 5. Annika Fedde, Ventura Yacht Club, 13-26-16-27-9-[39]- ; 91
- Complete Standings

"The wind and how it comes off the mountains and spreads out over the lake is the most challenging part of this sailing venue," explained Weaver. "You really have to keep your head out of the boat."

The race committee completed three races for the Lasers on Thursday and Friday and three races for the Laser Radials on Thursday and two on Friday. The conditions were similar both days with winds in the 6-10 knot range, primarily from 225 degrees with violent shifts making it difficult to maintain "squareness" on the inside-outside trapezoid course.

Lack of any breeze on Saturday forced the race committee to abandon all racing. Sunday looked like a repeat of Saturday, with a slightly better, yet inconsistent, forecast model. A 10 knot westerly burst through the racing area later in the afternoon. The shifts became radical and inconsistent resulting in a postponement and general recall before getting off the Lasers just seven minutes before the warning signal deadline. The wind was brisk resulting in a shorter than expected race duration for both fleets. They completed an important sixth race for the Radials (allowing for their discard) and a seventh race for the Lasers.

Sailors eligible for the U.S. Singlehanded Sailing Championships in the men's Laser Full Rig and women's Laser Radial Fleets must be U.S. citizens and at least turn 17 in the calendar year of 2017. These eligible sailors raced in their respective fleets as part of the Laser Nationals

competition.

Prizes were awarded to competitors meeting the eligibility rules for the U.S. Singlehanded Championship:

- George D. O'Day Trophy to the overall highest placing eligible male in the Laser Full Rig for the U.S. Singlehanded Men's Championship.
- Helen Willis Hanley Trophy to the overall highest placing eligible female in the Laser Radial for the U.S. Singlehanded Women's Championship.

Medals were awarded to the top three positions in each fleet.

Jake Fish is with US Sailing.

Supervisors keep Santiago off EDC commission

Former El Dorado County Supervisor Norma Santiago was denied an appointment to the county's Mental Health Commission's South Lake Tahoe Council.



Norma Santiago

Supervisor Brian Veerkamp at the meeting this month when it came to a vote wanted no part in allowing Santiago a post

within the government – even on a volunteer basis – because **she sued the county** when she got out of office. (She lost the pursuit to be granted back pay.) That lawsuit cost taxpayers about \$70,000 in legal fees.

Veerkamp put forth a motion to deny the appointment. Supervisor Michael Ranalli voted with him. However, it failed 2-2. Supervisor Sue Novasel recused herself. Supervisor Sheva Frentzen then made a motion to approve Santiago. No one seconded it so the motion failed.

The item had been on the consent calendar. Veerkamp pulled it.

The seat on the 16-member board remains vacant. The three-year term expires at the end of the year.

Santiago isn't done with politics. She is contemplating running for the 4th Congressional District seat occupied by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Garden Valley.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Review: Lake House restaurant more than satisfies

By Yolanda Nussdorfer

There is a relatively new restaurant in town that is all the rage. Open for about nine months, the Lake House restaurant in South Lake Tahoe is turning heads.

Being a part-time local, I finally had a chance to dine here and I was very much impressed. Having recently visited a couple other fine dining options that once held the title of

“my favorite,” I was pleased to have a new contender. The Lake House was nothing short of excellent in food, atmosphere, and staff so you could imagine my excitement when the owner, Jeff Sparrow agreed to be interviewed.

The Lake House offers a full menu that is “fine dining without the pretension,” says Sparrow. You will find an array of dishes that are wonderfully devised and know exactly what the ingredients are. You won’t find any words you cannot pronounce and at the risk of sounding gauche, I like knowing what I am ordering. You can find their dinner menu [here](#).



A variety of dishes are worthy of ordering at the Lake House in South Lake Tahoe.
Photo/Yolanda Nussdorfer

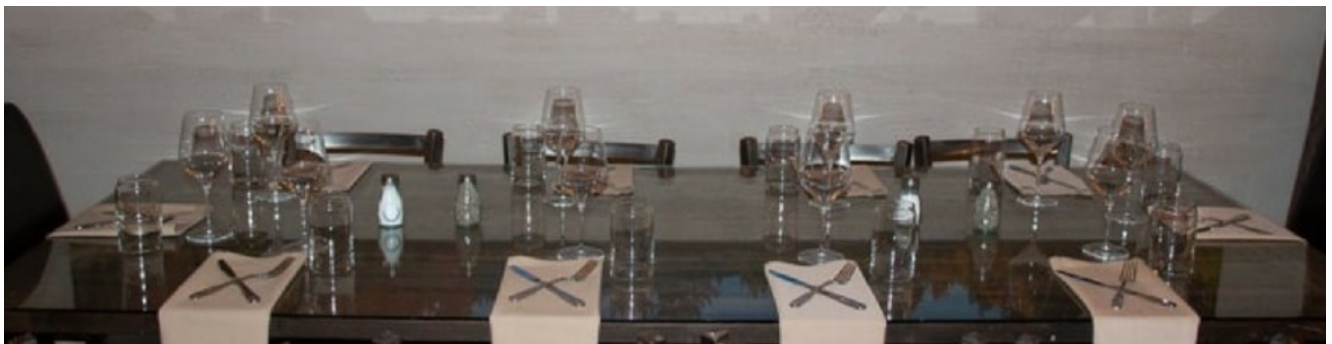
We had a hard time deciding what to order, as most everything on the menu sounded fabulous. In their appetizer section, the chef prepares a “daily risotto” and they also have a rotating seasonal salad. The main portion of the menu remains fairly consistent, but both the owners and chefs are constantly bouncing ideas off of one another to create new items. They also offer a wide selection of beer and wine.

You will find comfortable seating with a classy vibe. Everything from the stained concrete floors to the rustic chandeliers to the bluesy mellow music are all very welcoming. The wall of antique gold mirrors against a neutral textured wall is prime example of its homey feeling. On the walls are large canvases of Lake Tahoe prints to round it all out.

We started with an assortment of calamari, escargot, and the wedge salad. We decided sharing is caring. My son ate most of the calamari, but of what I could steal, it was excellent. The escargot I would order again in a second, giving way to the perfect combination of garlic and butter. I typically order the wedge salad in many restaurants and have never had one with candied walnuts before. It was an excellent addition and I will probably add this touch to the one I make at home.

After revising our plan a few times, the kids decided they would order off the happy hour menu. Just a note, there is no kids' menu, but mine are older and have no problem with "adult dining." If you have little ones, my suggestion is to have a date night.

I decided to go with the chicken marsala because I had not had it in so long. It was a large portion. My husband decided on the scallops and prawn chimichurri, which he was beyond thrilled with and convinced the people sitting next to us to order as well when they asked him about it.



The Lake House restaurant on Emerald Bay Road is one of South Lake Tahoe's newest eateries. Photo/Yolanda Nussdorfer

Ever since we visited Italy, my kids have been obsessed with gelato. When they found it on the menu, they were just delighted. We also ordered the creme brulee, which had a touch of what I thought was lemon, but after looking at the menu again discovered it was grand marnier. Even better.

After our dessert was a little surprise of chocolate peppermint bliss. It is sweet and salty and I am so glad I don't have a sweet tooth because I would buy this by the pound. When I asked the chef about this creation, he just smiled as if he knew this "crack" confection would have us coming back for more.

When your bill arrives, it will come in a guest book. Please sign it, the owners do take the time to read it.

I am so excited for the future of this place. Jeff and Misty Sparrow have future plans for outdoor patio seating and for a food truck. I spend part of my time in Phoenix and have grown to love food trucks. They are no longer the beat up, unsanitized boxes they once were. Today, some of them are top of the line gourmet. I believe Tahoe would benefit from a Lake House food truck for town events, or just to run some of that chocolate over to our house.

*Yolanda Nussdorfer is an artist and family travel curator. She documents travel and everyday adventures through art and photography. She blogs at **Inspire and Wander**, and can also be found on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, and **Twitter**.*

Concert to raise money for

Boathouse Theatre

During the Great Gatsby Festival the Vahalla arts group will be hosting the second annual boathouse fundraiser.

This will be an opportunity to step back in time to relive the tumultuous 1920s. Prohibition was in effect. Jazz was all the rage and flappers danced the night away.

Wear a costume and be immersed in the decade that roared. The event will include a wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and appetizer reception, and a concert featuring early jazz from The Earles of Newtown in the Boathouse Theatre.

This will be Aug. 12 at 6:30pm. The \$50 tickets are available **online**.

Grand jury questions EDC-tribe finances

By Joann Eisenbrandt

In September 2006, El Dorado County and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians signed a memorandum of understanding that ended the county's two lawsuits that had delayed construction of the tribe's Red Hawk Casino. The casino opened in 2008.

The 2016-17 El Dorado County Grand Jury responded to concerns raised by county residents about how well El Dorado County has administered the terms of this agreement. The MOU was later amended in 2012 and again in June 2017.



"None of the reports submitted by the tribe provide any detail about the increased expenses associated with caring for non-Indian residents of the county as required by the 2012 amendment." –
2016-17 El Dorado County Grand Jury Report

El Dorado County Chief Administrative Officer Don Ashton was asked by *Lake Tahoe News* to describe the current relationship between the county and the tribe. "The relationship between the county and the tribe right now is very good," he said. "There is open dialogue, so that is all positive. They have the right to do the things on their land that they choose to, but they try to work with the county as much as possible."

AmyAnn Taylor, attorney general for the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, handles government affairs for the tribe and

is the contact person with the county for the MOU. She agrees with Ashton, "Over the years, the relationship between the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and the county has become more collaborative as we both look for opportunities to partner."

The relationship between the county and the tribe began quite differently.

Early opposition to the casino

In a position statement in April 2003, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors declared, "Many county residents have expressed to us the reasons why they feel that this huge proposed casino in Shingle Springs would be a disaster for the county. The board has heard and understands these concerns, and is adamantly opposed to the building of a casino that will degrade the quality of life in El Dorado County in so many ways."

They called it a "planning nightmare," adding, "No rational planner and no sensible public official would ever approve a commercial project of this magnitude in an area zoned for rural residences Anyone who believes that casinos make good neighbors is sadly misinformed."

The county subsequently filed two lawsuits to stop construction of the casino. One challenged the state's environmental analysis regarding impacts of the interchange to be constructed on Highway 50. The tribe's Rancheria was landlocked and needed this interchange in order to construct the casino. The second lawsuit challenged the official federal recognition of the tribe by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Opposition ends, funding begins

In September 2006, the county dropped both lawsuits in return for payments from the tribe to mitigate the expected impacts

of the casino on area residents. The original MOU was drawn up. The county stipulated that the tribe was a legitimate, federally-recognized tribe entitled to have a gaming facility on its rancheria, which was "Indian lands." Lands like this are held in trust by the federal government for the tribe and are not subject to local or state environmental or land-use planning regulations or to property and sales taxes.

The tribe agreed to fund a 5.3-mile portion of a proposed high occupancy vehicle lane on Highway 50 from South Shingle Road/Ponderosa Road to El Dorado Boulevard. It would also pay the county \$500,000 annually for law enforcement, agree to collect sales and hotel taxes similar to that being charged by non-Indian businesses in the county, and pay an additional \$500,000 annually for 20 years or the life of its gaming compact with the state in recognition of the fact that the casino is not subject to the same taxes as other El Dorado County businesses. It would pay an additional \$100,000 for every 100 slot machines it added over the 2,000 limit in its current state compact.



"They have the right to do the things on their land that they choose to, but they try to work with the county as much as possible."
— CAO Don Ashton

Amendments change the MOU

The impacts of the casino on Highway 50 had been less than expected the 2012 amendment said, and other funding had been found to construct the HOV lane. In place of paying for the HOV lane, the tribe agreed to give the county \$5.2 million annually to be used for “qualifying public improvements,” including but not limited to road improvements or maintenance within the boundaries of a map drawn outward from the rancheria. The boundaries extended south from the rancheria just below Highway 50 in Cameron Park, and north to include the Missouri Flat area and just above.

The county agreed to give the tribe \$2.6 million annually for its health clinic “in consideration of the increased expenses to the tribe’s health program for caring for non-Indian citizens of the county” The tribe was required to submit a detailed annual report showing how these funds were spent.

Uses of tribal funds are expanded

At its June 6, 2017, meeting the Board of Supervisors approved a second amendment to the MOU. It removed all geographical restrictions on where the “qualifying public improvements” money could be spent within the county. It says, “The parties recognize that spending flexibility will enable the county to utilize the MOU funds in a more effective and efficient manner which will benefit both parties.” The 2016-17 grand jury report came out before the 2017 amendment to the MOU so it is not referenced in the report.

Concerns have been expressed by residents with property near the casino that the impacts to those living in this area need to be more fully mitigated before money from the tribe is spent elsewhere. County resident Lori Parlin has been actively involved with this issue. She has discussed additional mitigations for impacts in the area around the casino with Ashton. At the June 6 board meeting she told county

supervisors, "... the expectations (of residents near the casino) have not been met. A fraction of the money (the tribe gives the county) should be spent to help local residents. That's what the intent of this money was originally." Ashton was the negotiator for the county with the tribe for the second amendment.

Where should the money be spent?

"We have a board policy that they have as much flexibility over spending money as possible, and the map from the 2012 MOU Amendment did not allow for this," Ashton told *Lake Tahoe News*. The board can use the money from the tribe, he added, as it sees fit. Right now, as in many California counties, roads are the priority. Raising the sales tax to fund road improvements, Ashton noted, is most likely not a viable option. "(The tribe) gives us over \$7 million each year and I can't give up that \$7 million. It is important to the county."

According to Ashton, the roads in the area defined by the MOU map drawn in 2012 have an overall pavement condition index (PCI) of 70, while those in other areas of the county are at 60. Roads in the Tahoe basin can be as low as 40. The PCI is a numerical scale from 0 to 100 that identifies the condition of roadways; 0 is worst, 100 is best. "Nobody would dispute," Ashton said, "that road maintenance is a qualifying public improvement." Because qualifying public improvements are not well defined in the MOU, "it leaves a lot open to interpretation."

It remains difficult for some to accept that using money from the tribe to fix roads in Tahoe, miles away from the casino, is an appropriate use of those funds. Ashton said there is \$3 million in the current year budget for road maintenance in the Tahoe basin. "The casino has drawn many visitors away from Tahoe," he explains. "The revenue that they lost could have been used to fix the roads in Tahoe." District 5 Supervisor Sue Novasel, who represents the Tahoe area, agrees. She

strongly favored the second amendment to the MOU. "Because the casino was built down here, it has had a terrible financial impact on the South Shore of the lake."

A failure in administration

The 2016-17 grand jury's concerns are only with the county's failure to properly administer the 2012 MOU amendment. Its report notes the county did not designate a point of contact for administration of the amended document and it did not keep a centralized file for it. Their investigation showed that the board had been relying on the county's CAO to deal with matters related to the agreement. The board itself had limited knowledge of the terms of the agreement and the turnover rate for CAOs in the county had been high. This made it difficult to ensure compliance with the MOU. Ashton became county CAO in May 2016. He told *Lake Tahoe News* that there was no central file before he assumed the position, but that he has since created one. He found it difficult to find anyone who had been involved in the creation of the original 2006 MOU. "I started from the hand that was dealt to me." Ashton is the county's contact with the tribe regarding administration of the MOU.

The amendment's terms

Under the MOU, the county is to audit the number of gaming machines at Red Hawk Casino to see if there are more than 2,000, but no audits have been done. The grand jury interviewed county officials and found they, "... had no knowledge of any monitoring of the number of machines. There is no process or oversight in place that follows up on annual changes in machine count." The tribe did pay the county twice for extra gaming machines—\$100,000 in February 2014 and \$300,000 in December 2015. Ashton confirmed that the county had not performed any prior audits of gaming machines at Red Hawk Casino.

The latest amendment to the tribe's compact with the state

allows for up to 4,000 gaming devices after June 30, 2020. If Red Hawk Casino reached this number of machines, it would mean an additional \$2 million for the county. The casino currently has approximately 2,100 gaming machines.

Show us the money

The tribe is to report annually on how it has used the \$2.6 million from the county. The grand jury said the tribe's one-page reports "have been inconsistent and lacking in detail. The use of these funds needs to be in compliance with the intent of the amended agreement; it is difficult to ascertain the use based on the limited reports provided."

Several of the tribe's reports said the funds were applied to "the general operating budget for the Shingle Springs Health and Wellness Center." Page 21 of the grand jury report entitled, "Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (Governmental Activities and Funds)" does contain what appear to be financial figures, but they have all been redacted. The grand jury report states that no one at the county "could explain exactly what the above provision meant or how it was to be implemented."

The bigger issue the grand jury addressed was whether "the payment may not be justified in terms of direct dollar benefits for the increased expenses associated with caring for non-Indian citizens of the county." It noted that the tribe had been serving both Indian and non-Indian communities since 1995 and that their health clinics get a significantly higher reimbursement rate for Medi-Cal and Medicare patients than some other county health care providers do. In its findings, the grand jury noted, "None of the reports submitted by the tribe provide any detail about the increased expenses associated with caring for non-Indian residents of the county as required by the 2012 amendment." It recommended the county adopt a policy requiring the tribe to provide a detailed report of the use of the county's "qualifying healthcare

contributions.”



“However, we have a government-to-government relationship that respects the sovereignty of each body to spend the funds as needed.” – *AmyAnn Taylor, Miwok tribe*

Not a new concern

In March 2015, Parlin had sent a letter to county Auditor-Controller Joe Harn requesting that he “perform an audit of the \$2,600,000 that El Dorado County donates annually to the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians for qualifying healthcare contributions ...”

She noted, “The letters (provided by the tribe) do not meet any standards of a detailed summary of expenditures, and do not give the county of El Dorado taxpayers enough information to assess whether the \$2,600,000 is a worthwhile investment of county funds.” Parlin told *Lake Tahoe News* that her request “fell on deaf ears.”

At the August 15, 2015, board meeting, Parlin brought up the issue again and asked the board if the county had received a detailed summary in July from the tribe and if the county had sent the tribe a check. “I would like to ask that the payment

be withheld until we receive a detailed summary of expenditures.”

A detailed financial audit would give dollar figures for the tribal health clinic’s “unreimbursed expenses” from the treatment of non-Indian patients. Unreimbursed expenses are those not covered by any payment sources. These payment sources include Medi-Cal – California’s expanded version of Medicaid –, Medicare, private insurance, a sliding fee scale, straight charity and grants. Critics of the county’s payment to the tribe want the board to require the tribe to provide the clinic’s actual income and expense amounts.

Harn told *Lake Tahoe News*, “As for the public demands that I perform an audit of the Shingle Springs Health & Wellness Center (clinic), I do not have the authority to perform an audit of the clinic ... or IBM or Burger King.” He added that the clinic is audited each year by their independent auditors. “Tribal Administrator Ernest Vargas has shared portions of the clinic’s (independent) audit with us,” Harn said. “The reports indicate that the tribe expends more than \$2.6 (million) on the clinic each year.”

El Dorado Community Health Centers (EDCHC) also expressed reservations about the \$2.6 million payment to the tribe. In a letter to the board in February 2016, the agency commended the county for its commitment “to support healthcare for county residents,” but had issues, “surrounding the manner in which these county funds are being used.” They requested an independent audit of the county’s financial contributions to the tribe’s health clinic.

They referenced a Nov. 7, 2012, report from then-County Counsel Ed Knapp to the board supporting the 2012 amendment. That report said the tribe’s new facility was, “the only medical facility in the area which serves indigent and Medi-Cal patients.” EDCHC board treasurer Stan Stailey told *LTN* that the county should have known this was incorrect. It was

El Dorado County that provided the \$300,000 start-up loan to the El Dorado Community Health Center in 2003 from state tobacco funds. It was intended to help take the burden off the ER at Marshall Hospital for the treatment of indigent and Medi-Cal patients. EDCHC currently operates four health facilities in the county.

Stailey said they did not receive a response to their 2016 request for an audit. He also believes that recent conversations with Ashton and members of the Board of Supervisors have not adequately addressed his health care organization's concerns. Ashton said that even though "the spirit of the MOU is open to interpretation, we have to live by what the MOU amendments say now." The MOU itself, Ashton added, does not require the level of financial detail that some are demanding.

The tribe's view

AmyAnn Taylor explains, "Non-Indians have access to all of the services available to Indians at the Shingle Springs Health & Wellness Center. Since 1996, we have had an increase of 1,134 percent of non-Indian patients, some of which is due to increased capacity." She indicated that 75 percent of the patients at their clinic are currently non-Indians.

With regard to the tribe's annual reports, Taylor added, "The tribe has worked with the county to be more specific. However, we have a government-to-government relationship that respects the sovereignty of each body to spend the funds as needed. The tribe doesn't ask El Dorado County for information on how the county uses money provided by the tribe." Asked if the tribe plans on providing more detailed reports on the use of the \$2.6 million in the future, she said, "The tribe's reports will be similar to the one provided this year." County CAO Ashton said that the county has kept an accounting of how the money is being spent but the tribe has never asked for one.

The path forward

Whether or not the county will follow the grand jury's recommendation and require more detailed financial accountings from the tribe or look to make any further modifications to the MOU is something Ashton could not answer now. He confirmed that the county is still in the process of preparing its formal responses to the grand jury report. These are due in August and will provide detailed answers to the issues raised by the grand jury.

Both Ashton and Harn agree the county has made mistakes since the MOU with the tribe was first signed in 2006. They believe the relationship between the tribe and the county is now on solid footing. "The tribe's enormously positive economic impact on the county is indisputable," Harn stated. "If there was poor communication between the county and the tribe in the past, that was 100 percent the county's fault. We had the wrong individuals in the CAO's office."

Some remain skeptical. "I was pleased to see the grand jury make the same recommendations I had asked for years earlier," Lori Parlin said. "I am happy that I am not the only one who has remained concerned." The county's response to the grand jury report next month should give more insights into where the relationship between El Dorado County and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians goes from here.

Letter: Boys & Girls Club says thanks

To the community,

Tahoe's first ever Brewfest last month was such a huge success that it ran out of beer and raised over \$20,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe.

The brain child of Cold Water's Deb Brown, the Tahoe Brewfest was made a reality on June 10. With all proceeds benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe, the success of the event skyrocketed with supporters from all over the Tahoe Basin and beyond with over 80 percent of attendees from out of town.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe would like to give a shoutout to the wonderful supporters of the event who kick started what is sure to become a major south shore event each summer.

- Cold Water Brewery
- Gabbart & Woods Structural Engineering
- Sustainable Community Advocates
- Tahoe Party Rentals
- Tahoe Beach Retreat & Lodge
- South Tahoe Lodging Association
- Blue Riders
- ABC Fire
- Sysco
- South Tahoe Refuse and Recycling
- Tahoe Production House
- Tahoe Brew Tours
- SMG Consulting.

FNCTN assisted with social media exposure, marketing, and live

music, and the event could not have happened without all our local breweries coming together to give their time, beer and expertise to raise money for a great cause in the community.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lake Tahoe, with FNCTN and Cold Water, are already planning for 2018 and are looking into larger venues, more attendees, and more beer for future Tahoe Brewfests.

Kili Ongoy, Boys & Girls Club development manager and event coordinator