

Ranalli now faces Nov. challenge for EDC supervisor

The latest update from El Dorado County Elections Department is affecting the outcome of the June 5 District 4 supervisorial race.

To win outright without going to a runoff in November it requires a candidate to garner 50 percent of the vote plus one.

As it stands with results posted in the late afternoon of June 8, incumbent Mike Ranalli has 49.6 percent with 4,900 votes, while Lori Parlin is second in the three-person race with 37.99 percent with 3,753 votes.

There are still more provisional votes to be counted.

The election must be certified by July 5.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Vail Resorts posts third quarter results

By Ben Miller, Denver Business Journal

Vail Resorts reported third-quarter Epic Pass season pass sales this week; , net income and quarterly earnings all rose.

The Broomfield, Colo.-based ski resort operator reported that unit sales of its Epic Pass rose 12 percent and rose 19 percent by sales volume in the latest quarter.

Net income rose by more than 41 percent to \$256.3 million in the latest quarter from \$181.1 million a year earlier.

Vail owns Tahoe area resorts Heavenly Mountain Resort, Kirkwood Mountain Resort and Northstar.

Read the whole story

Fire consumes West Shore house

A house in Tahoma was destroyed by fire on Thursday.

Firefighters got the call at 9:48am June 7.

Flames consumed 50 percent of the two-story structure by the time firefighters arrived. The house was near Antelope Way and Alder Street.

The cause was related to hobby work being performed by the occupant, according to officials.

There were no injuries.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Several Nevada candidates

have criminal records

By Ramona Giwargis, Las Vegas Review-Journal

One candidate has been charged with theft and wiretapping. Another was convicted of domestic battery and accused of waving a gun while drunk. One was an Army deserter.

These are a few of the political candidates on the Nevada ballot this year – and it's causing deep concern in some political circles.

Nevada voters have many choices at the ballot box, including electing a new governor.

Read the whole story

Photographic history coming to Incline

Peter Goin, foundation professor of art at the UNR, will give a talk June 14 titled Time Travel: Revisiting Lake Tahoe.

It will be at UC Davis TERC on the campus of Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village.

Time Travel is a visual presentation of historical photographs of Lake Tahoe from the 19th century through the mid-20th century, with the photographer's comparative view of the same location. Travel through time, blending history from the black and white past to the colorful present.

This 25-year project by Goin is nearly complete with many

historical images never before exhibited or published that were compiled with the support of a team of research assistants from UNR.

Registration for this event is required. The program will begin at 6pm, with refreshments and no-host bar from 5:30-6pm. Cost is \$5.

Mining history coming to S. Tahoe library

Author Gage McKinney will be in South Lake Tahoe on June 19 to share the tale of the hard-rock miners from Cornwall who came to America early in the 1800s to tap the continent's rich mineral wealth.

They were crucial to the California Gold Rush and settled in the mining camps of the Sierra Nevada. Along with their mining skills, they brought their folk music and especially their Christmas carols.

McKinney will describe the origins of this music, which was composed, performed and enjoyed by mining families, and is preserved today by their descendants. This "Christmas in June" event will prepare guests to visit Grass Valley, where the Cornish carols are still sung on the streets in December.

The free event is at 6pm at the at the South Lake Tahoe Library on Rufus Allen Boulevard.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Truckee is hosting three informal listening session. It's an opportunity to interact with council members and the town manager. Rules: no politicking, keep it respectful and bring your best ideas, passionate interests, and toughest questions. Dates are June 28, July 25 and Aug. 29 from 4-5:30pm at 10412 Donner Pass Road, Truckee.

- Douglas County has begun construction to make improvements to the Kingsbury North trailhead. Expect intermittent parking closures during the day until July for undergrounding utilities and pavement resurfacing.

- Truckee is creating a Public Art Master Plan. There will be a round table workshop on June 13 from 5:30-7:30pm in council chambers. For questions, contact Nicholas Martin at nmartin@townoftruckee.com or 530.582.2910.

- Thanks to the generosity of Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows' guests, \$43,235 was donated to the Tahoe Fund and Truckee River Watershed Council. This money came from donations guests added to lift ticket and season pass sales during the 2017-18 season.

- The 54th annual DeCelle Memorial Lake Tahoe Relay will begin at 5am June 9. Runners start and finish at Lakeview Commons in South Lake Tahoe.

Hiker survives night in Desolation Wilderness

A Sacramento woman had to be airlifted out of Desolation Wilderness on Wednesday.

The woman, whose name has not been released, spent the night of June 5 in the wilderness with her dog after they got lost.

El Dorado County search and rescue personnel found them near Forni Lake. They were flown out by the California Highway Patrol helicopter. Their condition was not disclosed.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

<https://www.facebook.com/CHPValleyAirOps/videos/1814096125322546/>

Caltrans contractor in hot water with TRPA



The contractor working at Emerald Bay is accused of violating the permit.

By Kathryn Reed

The contractor doing work on Highway 89 near Emerald Bay could face a slew of violations from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and possibly other agencies.

A video on the White Trash Brigade Facebook page shows workers with Stewart Engineering of Redding, the contractor hired by Caltrans, laughing as a large boulder rolls down the hillside and takes out a tree.

Caltrans did not respond to repeated emails.

TRPA was first notified May 21 about the company allegedly disposing of rocks and asphalt.

“TRPA investigated and found large boulders from the project area and tailings of sediment and asphalt extending down onto California State Parks property, with damage to trees, slope destabilization, and impacts to a stream environment zone in this highly sensitive natural area,” Tom Lotshaw, spokesman for the bi-state regulatory agency, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

At that time a cease and desist order was issued until the company came into compliance with the permit which mandated erosion control measures be in place and to adhere to other aspects of the contract.

TRPA officials went back out to the site on June 7 and said the company was still violating the permit. Stewart was given 24 hours to fix the problems or have the site shutdown. TRPA will be back out there this afternoon to see where the project stands.

“TRPA is continuing to investigate this incident for potential civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day for each code violation, and is also working with Caltrans and California

State Parks on a plan to clean up and restore areas impacted by this unfortunate incident,” Lotshaw said.

Because this is an ongoing investigation the number of violations has not been determined.

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Publisher’s note: There is profanity in **the video** that may be offensive to some people.

Homeless damaging sensitive S. Tahoe landscape



Known as The Mayor in the homeless encampment, he wishes South

Lake Tahoe had a shelter. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

A homeless encampment of about 20 individuals in the middle of South Lake Tahoe has been given a seven-day notice to move on or else they'll be forcibly removed.

Tucked into the meadow off the bike path behind Motel 6 is a community hidden from most people. Tents and makeshift shelters protect them from the elements. Cooking devices vary from crude stoves to old barbecues. Some have coolers. Bikes are common.

Wood has been cut from the area for fencing and other uses.



Mr. Cotter is responsible for building the bridges. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Two sturdy bridges – built well, maybe even to code – cross what would have been wet areas not that long ago.

Well-worn paths lead from one “home” to the next. It used to be the paths were narrower, with better tree canopy.

“Most people out here are local people. They have found a safe, positive environment. A good place to sleep,” says The Mayor. This man has been out here on and off for three years, having lived here through the last winter.



Officer Johnny Spaeth is trying to build a rapport with the people living in the woods. Photo/Kathryn Reed

He laments about the lack of affordable and low-income housing. He said so many come into the meadow with only their paperwork from jail. Their options are limited.

Some who call this area home have jobs. What they don't have is a traditional home.

“The city really needs a shelter,” The Mayor told *Lake Tahoe News*. “The city's shelter is the county jail in a lot of ways.”

His home is one of the larger areas, with some nicer elements like a hammock.

If this weren't on private land (it's owned by Knox Johnson), and harming the environment (trash, human feces, needles, illegal wood harvesting, illegal trail building, trampling an incredibly sensitive landscape) it would be an ideal location to pitch a tent. It's walking distance to the lake, the bike path, public transit, a grocery store and many other amenities.



Propane canisters the homeless had been using.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

"We're always going to have a homeless issue. The idea is to make it the least impactful on the environment and community," Officer Johnny Spaeth told *Lake Tahoe News*. He is South Lake Tahoe Police Department's homeless expert. "A red line for us is open flame," Spaeth says as he looks at where briquettes

had been started on the ground and have left a visible imprint.

While South Lake Tahoe has had a homeless population for years, last year was the first time an actual encampment started to form. This year it's a true community.



The entrance to this site is on the other side, with rooms sectioned off. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Spaeth knows most of the individuals by name. He knows which “home” belongs to each person. Still, what they are doing – camping outside a designated campground – is illegal.

He understands they are “just trying to get by in life,” but at the same time with so many people in the meadow it is degrading the natural environment, and presents health and safety concerns.

Spaeth has been working with the people to get them to clean up the mess. The department provided them a dumpster to get

rid of things. It's behind the old Carrows and is nearly full of what looks like trash. Next to it are seven propane canisters these people had been using that they hauled out.



Officer Johnny Spaeth listens to Matt tell him how he's gotten rid of most of his junk. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Matt thanks Spaeth for working him, giving him time to sort through his stuff.

"It's just down to the basics for me," Matt tells the officer. He says someone, though, has been mining the dumpster and taking goods.

A decades-old backpack hangs from a tree. A tarp covers things. A bike and books are in the open.

These people have been creative with the resources they have. They've repurposed items to make it work for them.

On June 7 people in the encampment received official notification from law enforcement that they have seven days to move out, though Spaeth had been telling them this day was

coming, which is why the dumpster was brought in. Anything left behind will be considered abandoned property and will be considered trash.

Where they will go is anyone's guess.

The Mayor called it a game of hide and seek. But the cops always seem to find them.



This tent is for storage because the homeless have issues with food and wildlife. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Dispersed camping is what the homeless have traditionally done here – meaning there's a tent here and there, not a community. This is less impactful to the environment because people pick up and move on. There isn't the wear and tear on the land.

Spaeth said when appropriate officers will help people get connected to social services, but he acknowledges "resources in the basin are limited."

Most of the people in this encampment are men between the ages of 20 and 40, though for the last month or so three women have consistently been here.

Arresting them isn't what officers want to do. After all, being homeless isn't a crime. Where they pitch a tent, that's what crosses the line – and potentially some behavioral issues could get them in trouble with the cops. There have been fights and issues with aggressive dogs, things that can happen in any neighborhood.

"More people come out here every day. They have nowhere else to go," The Mayor said. In less than a week, though, this meadow will be off-limits.