

Letter: USFS and the Carson River hot springs

To the community,

This letter is in regards to the hot springs on the East Fork of the Carson River in California near the Nevada border. Friends of Hope Valley wants to bring greater public awareness of the situation and needs readers to help apply pressure on the Forest Service to take action.

Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV) is a nonprofit organization whose members share a deep affection for the unspoiled beauty of the Sierra's eastern slope of Alpine country. Our mission is to preserve the scenic, recreational and historic use of Hope Valley and Alpine County's eastern Sierra slope.

Since 2007 we have been involved in the East Carson River Strategy Plan produced by the Carson Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyable National Forest. Some of the proposed actions have been completed. The most impacted area, the hot springs on the river, has been over looked. Various users have abused the area for many years. The area is full of trash, most of the trees have been cut for firewood, new "user created" roads have been established, the place is littered with ammunition casings. Although hundreds of people visit the area each year there are no sanitation facilities.

As the river levels drop OHV's illegally drive across. YouTube videos depict vehicles floating down the river, crashing through the mud and the causing serious environmental damage. The problems at the hot springs area were discussed during multi-agency and volunteer group river runs during the last two summers. Recommendations were proposed to clean up the area and protect it from future abuse. So far, none of them have been acted upon.

It's up to us to tell the Forest Service to take action now.

Friends of Hope Valley recommends that access roads leading across the river should be barricaded, user- created roads closed, and the hot springs' natural environment restored. There are no signs in the area; friendly educational signs would be a good place to start. Four years ago FOHV volunteered to help pay for the signs, to this date no sign has been produced.

There is California OHV grant money to begin the planning process, complete restoration and close road; the Forest Service has yet to apply for the grants.

We do understand it's a very challenging situation for the Forest Service. Roads leading into the area are high clearance 4wd (it takes several hours to drive in) and cross tribal and private lands making law enforcement and maintenance difficult. We would just like to see a few positive steps forward.

Thank you for you time,

Debbi Waldear, Friends of Hope Valley chair

EDC sees new, old names win election

Updated June 6, 9:46am:

By Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County is going to have a new surveyor, treasurer-tax collector, and recorder-clerk – all because the current

officeholders opted to retire.

Philip Mosbacher had no competition for surveyor in the June 5 primary election. K.E. Coleman (15,686 votes, 56.12 percent) topped Anne Billingsley (12,156 votes, 43.49 percent) for treasurer-tax collector. Janelle Horne (12,137 votes, 41.02 percent) and Todd White (10,436 votes, 35.27 percent) were the top two finishers for recorder-clerk.

Anyone who received 50 percent of the vote plus one is the outright winner in non-partisan races. In races without a clear winner the top two vote-getters will battle it out in November – no matter their party affiliation.

Auditor Joe Harn and District Attorney Vern Pierson each faced challengers, and both secured enough votes to retain their jobs for another four years.

Harn beat Mike Owen, accumulating 16,284 votes, or 53.2 percent. Pierson faced opposition from Deputy DA Trish Kelliher. He beat her with 17,349 votes, or 56.55 percent. Neither Harn nor Pierson were available for comment.

Others returning to office are:

- Sheriff John D'Agostini who was not challenged.
- Assessor Karl Weiland was not challenged.
- Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, the Republican representing the 5th District. He had 60.14 percent, with 12,762 votes.

Measure A, the initiative in Fallen Leaf Lake that extends the \$660 annual parcel tax for another four years, passed with 79.17 percent.

All of the above numbers are based on 100 percent of the precincts reporting.

All results are preliminary until they are certified, which

can take up to one month.

El Dorado County related individuals who were running for statewide offices include:

- Former El Dorado County Superior Court Judge **Steve Bailey** is one of the two top vote-getters for attorney general. Bailey stepped down from the bench last August and has since been battling **ethics violations**. With 99.4 percent of the votes counted, Bailey has 25.3 percent; with Xavier Becerra on top with 45.3 percent.
 - State Sen. Ted Gaines, who represents Lake Tahoe in the state Legislature, is looking to move to the Board of Equalization. He will face Tom Hallinan in November. Gaines had 32.8 percent, while Hallinan pulled in 38.4 percent based on 100 percent of the votes counted.
 - Rep. Tom McClintock far outpaced his competition in the 4th Congressional race with 52.1 percent and Democrat Jessica Morse garnering 19.9 percent. They will meet in November.
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Opinion: How feminists invented the male midlife crisis

By Susanne Schmidt

The term “midlife crisis” conjures up the image of an affluent, middle-aged man speeding off in a red sports car with a woman half his age. He leaves behind his wife and children; yet he—not they—are in “crisis.” Because most tales and treatises about this near-cliché of midlife crisis center

on men, you might be misled to think they have nothing to do with women's lives.

For example, in his recently published book "Midlife," the MIT philosopher Kieran Setiya looks at the topic from a philosophical perspective. Declaring gender differences irrelevant, Setiya presents the quest for self-knowledge as an endeavor that concerns primarily men, the author himself (who experienced a crisis at the age of 35) and the great men of philosophy, from John Stuart Mill to Arthur Schopenhauer. When he reads Leo Tolstoy, the moral philosopher is interested in count Vronsky, not the title heroine Anna Karenina.

What has almost entirely dropped out of sight is that the midlife crisis was initially a feminist idea that became popular in the mid-1970s. Back then, "midlife crisis" described how men and women abandoned traditional gender roles: Approaching 40, women re-entered the world of work, while their husbands stepped in to help at home.

But in the years since then, the tale of the midlife crisis has come to focus on men in a way that bolsters gender hierarchies, rather than challenging them. Indeed, the male midlife crisis has been used to limit women's rights and advancement.

It was the Yale social psychologist Daniel Levinson who presented one of the earliest formulations of the male midlife crisis, which circulated widely in the media and professional psychological community. In 1978, he published "The Seasons of a Man's Life," based on a study of 40 men between 35 and 45 years old; mostly white and educated. It depicted the "midlife decade" as a period of change, during which men reinvented themselves. The book's key case study, "Jim Tracy," was a vice president and general manager at a Connecticut-based arms manufacturer. After a series of sexual escapades, he divorced his wife and married a younger woman, then left the corporation to open his own business. Levinson held that such

a “mid-life transition” or “mid-life crisis” (a term coined by the psychoanalyst Elliott Jaques in the 1950s, but not widely used until 20 years later) was a universal feature of human life, shared across social and cultural differences.

However, Levinson made an exclusion to the concept: He did not study women’s lives, interviewing the 40 men’s wives only to learn about their husbands. Despite this lack of empirical evidence, the psychologist’s description of the male midlife crisis was closely tied to his understanding of women’s roles: At a time when the women’s movement was widely popular in the United States, influencing public opinion as much as social policy and legislation, Levinson opposed the transformations in women’s lives. He used psychological research to bar women from changing their lives.

In “Seasons,” Levinson emphasized the importance of marriage to a man in his 20s and early 30s. He used the term “special woman” to describe the devoted at-home wife and mother who helped a man to become successful, or, in Levinson’s terms, fulfill his “Dream,” a concept borrowed from the British psychoanalyst Donald Winnicott. If the “special woman” had a job at all, it was as an unmarried woman seeking a husband, or in an occupation such as teaching or nursing “where she is appropriately maternal, sub-ordinate and non-competitive with men.”

Levinson stressed the significance of separate spheres—breadwinning father, homemaking mother—to a man’s professional advancement by contrasting the “special” with the “liberated” woman whose involvement in a career produced “bitter discontent and conflict” in a marriage and was in his view against nature: “It is hard enough to form a life structure around one person’s Dream. Building a structure that can contain the Dreams of both partners is a heroic task indeed, and one for which evolution and history have ill prepared us.”

The psychologist highlighted the motherly implications of a perfect wife's virtues. She was "generally maternal and caring and makes things easier for him." Drawing, again, on Winnicott's well-known definition of the "good enough mother," Levinson compared the "good enough" wife's relationship to her husband to that of a mother and child. Like a boy's mother, too, the special woman was a "transitional figure": "During early adulthood, a man is struggling to outgrow the little boy in himself and to become a more autonomous adult. The special woman can foster his adult aspirations [...]. Later, in the Mid-life Transition, he will have to become a more individual person. With further development, he will be more complete in himself and will have less need of the [...] special woman."

A man's midlife crisis, then, was a justification for abandoning his wife. As relevant as she had been in their 20s and early 30s, for the middle-aged man, his wife was "neither necessary nor desirable." The professional success the at-home wife had helped to build was no longer the established 40-year-old's priority; indeed, at middle age, her "special" qualities were considered "overly controlling," "smothering," "depriving and humiliating." And just as for Winnicott, the child did not owe its mother anything—she was "devoted" by nature—so for Levinson, the husband had no obligations toward his wife, while her responsibilities continued nonetheless. The psychologist bemoaned that many wives did not fully "appreciate" their husbands' "need for a greater measure of autonomy," and that some even acted as a "destructive witch or selfish bitch using both her strength and her weakness to keep him in line and prevent him from becoming what he truly wants to be."

Not just a reiteration of gender stereotypes, Levinson's concept of midlife crisis was anti-feminist. By excluding women from his concept of midlife change, the psychologist banned them from redefining their lives and seeking self-fulfillment outside the home. For Levinson, women's liberation

hindered men from releasing their full potential.

Levinson claimed that a woman's "growing assertiveness and freedom" in middle age would result in her partner's "severe decline." He warned of the moment when a wife "becomes the voice of development and change," "takes the initiative in reappraising the marriage," and "seeks to expand her own horizons and start new enterprises outside the home." Levinson cautioned that "the husband may then become the voice of the status quo. Moreover, a man who feels that his own youthfulness is in jeopardy may be more threatened than pleased. [...] He has less authority [...] and feels increasingly obsolescent [...]. Where this occurs, it is a serious problem for the entire family." Several years later, Levinson's follow-up "The Seasons of a Woman's Life" argued at book-length that in midlife, women discovered that it was impossible for them to find satisfaction in work or professional careers. A woman's place was in the home.

Levinson's idea came with scientific credentials and it was quickly picked up in the academy and beyond. The science writer Robert Kanigel expressed the thoughts of many critics when he praised "Seasons" as a profound and life-changing book: "I came away weak with wonder at the drama in every human life." For Richard Rhodes, the widely published writer and historian, Levinson's work was not just "authoritative" but indeed "as important and fully as extraordinary, as Kinsey's [reports on human sexual behavior]."

During the 1980s, as an anti-feminist backlash became widespread in the United States, Levinson's ideas were frequently reiterated. Psychological and psychiatric experts who published on the topic, often with reference to Levinson's "Seasons," were now joined by physicians. In his 1984 book "Crisis Time!," the prominent surgeon Robert Nolen suggested married women wait for their husbands—two years seemed an appropriate benchmark—and consider the situation: "Can she absolutely not tolerate his relationships with other women? Or

can she write it off as 'men will be men'?" Similarly, the Californian psychiatrist Jim Stanley, who regularly treated middle-aged couples, charged women for holding "unrealistic" expectations of men and advised them to be understanding, patient, and "more accepting" of their husbands' midlife behavior.

In 1989, Levinson himself capitalized on the continued success of his theory and turned "Seasons" into a documentary. Broadcast on PBS, "Halftime: Five Men at Midlife" chronicled the midlife crises of five male Yale graduates, class of 1963, selected by Levinson, who also interviewed them at length in front of the camera (individually and in a group session). Among them were Hollywood executive Steve Sohmer, complete with fat cigar, Rolls Royce and Rolex, who talked about his experience of going through multiple marriages, love affairs, and jobs, and Mike Redman, a former Olympian, who aired his anger over his wife's request for a divorce.

By then, the male mid-life crisis was an accepted cultural phrase. Its academic cachet allowed it to parade as a scientific, methodologically rigorous discovery. Even now, many are unaware of the profoundly anti-feminist stance that motivated the idea of men's midlife crisis. As a defensive reaction against the women's movement, Levinson's definition of the midlife crisis drew on the language of personal development to stabilize gender hierarchies and prevent women from changing their lives. Retelling this account of the male midlife crisis today—tuning out Anna Karenina's story in favor of Vronsky—means nourishing a narrative that has played important political roles.

Susanne Schmidt is a research associate and lecturer in the department of history at Free University Berlin. Her book "Midlife Crisis: The Feminist Origins of a Chauvinist Cliché" will be published with the University of Chicago Press.

Voter turnout better than expected in EDC

By Susan Wood

About one-third of the registered voters in El Dorado County cast a ballot in Tuesday's primary – and that's considered good.

That's the general assessment leading into the final results for El Dorado County elections from a man who has spent much of his government career watching and analyzing them.

In the topsy-turvy world of elections, longtime county Registrar Bill Schultz has seen it all. He anticipated last week that the June 5 primary might see only a 17 percent voter turnout, however he said people showed up in droves on election day. Preliminary estimates are the turnout will be closer to 33 percent. There are 115,431 registered voters in El Dorado County.

El Dorado traditionally brings out more registered voters to the ballot box in comparison to other counties.

"If you would've asked me a week ago, I'd say we'd probably have a low turnout – not as low as other counties – but low. But let me tell ya, it's been jam-packed all afternoon. A lot of younger people. That's good to see," Schultz told *Lake Tahoe News*. "It's going to be interesting."

Termed the "jungle primary," the two top vote-getters in a race advance no matter what party they fall in. That is assuming no one garnered 50 percent plus one. The change is intended to make the system more equitable.

“Every time there’s a gubernatorial race, everyone wants to get their name on the ballot. It’s bragging rights I guess,” Schultz said.

As a county, more than 78 percent of registered voters in El Dorado County opted for a mail-in ballot. An elections worker at Lake Tahoe Airport late Tuesday afternoon indicated there was less voter traffic than usual.

Mail-in ballots have become increasingly popular over the last decade. They’ve also posed as an early indicator to final results.

New this year in California’s system is the opportunity to register right up to election day. However, those are considered conditional ballots.

During a primary or general election, the day of civic duty brings out its share of gaffes and unusual events. This primary witnessed El Dorado’s neighboring Amador County run out of ballots because turnout ended up much greater than expected. According to the *Ledger Dispatch* newspaper, at least five polling places had none by 3pm, and voters had to be turned away.

Problems existed in large counties as well. Los Angeles County experienced widespread confusion when printing errors left many voters off the rosters.

Recyclables going to landfills as economics erode

By Bob Tita, Wall Street Journal

The U.S. recycling industry is breaking down.

Prices for scrap paper and plastic have collapsed, leading local officials across the country to charge residents more to collect recyclables and send some to landfills. Used newspapers, cardboard boxes and plastic bottles are piling up at plants that can't make a profit processing them for export or domestic markets.

U.S. recycling programs took off in the 1990s as calls to bury less trash in landfills coincided with China's demand for materials such as corrugated cardboard to feed its economic boom. Shipping lines eagerly filled containers that had brought manufactured goods to the U.S. with paper, scrap metal and plastic bottles for the return trip to China.

Read the whole story

Novasel, Curtzwiler head for Nov. showdown



Either Sue Novasel or Kenny Curtzwiler

will be the District 5 supervisor.

Updated June 6, 12:43am:

By Susan Wood

The two El Dorado County District 5 supervisor candidates on opposite ends of the political spectrum will face each other in November, a rematch of four years ago.

With all precincts reporting, incumbent Sue Novasel has 1,604 votes at 36.9 percent; while Kenny Curtzwiler is close behind with 1,419 votes at 32.64 percent.

Both were being challenged by transportation planner Jeffrey Spencer, in third with 16.52 percent (718 votes), and former supervisor Norma Santiago at 13.73 percent, (597 votes).

Of the 19,624 registered to vote in District 5, 4,347 votes were counted. These are all preliminary numbers until the election is certified within one month.

For Novasel, her optimism that her lead would hold in the June 5 primary was well founded, especially since she's been here before with Curtzwiler. Four years ago the picture was a little different with a wider gap. This year there is about a 5 percentage point differential.

"I'm not surprised. Kenny had a lot more support than last time," she said after early returns. "This is actually where I thought I'd be."

A phone call to Curtzwiler was unreturned.

Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News* she was a little concerned with having another Democrat on the ballot (meaning Santiago) to possibly split the votes. The statewide election system – which has undergone a slew of changes in the last few years – now requires voters to cast their ballots along party lines, unless they are undeclared.

Incumbent Mike Ranalli, who is trying to keep his supervisorial seat in District 4, has 50.03 percent, with 3,599 votes. Because he had more than 50 percent plus one vote he will not have a race in November.

700 gallons of jet fuel spills near American River

By Molly Sullivan, Sacramento Bee

A tanker truck carrying jet fuel overturned on Highway 193 north of Placerville, spilling hundreds of gallons of fuel and closing a portion of the highway, Caltrans District 3 announced Monday.

Shortly after 4am, the driver lost control of the truck while driving downhill near Chili Bar Reservoir, a popular spot for rafting, said Steve Nelson, Caltrans spokesman. The truck was carrying 800 gallons of jet fuel and another tank full of pesticides.

[Read the whole story](#)

Letter: STMS students help at

Bread & Broth

To the community,

The students at South Tahoe Middle School have the opportunity to join Club Live, which is an organization that promotes a healthy lifestyle by providing high energy alternative activities. The club features leadership events, community service projects, club meetings and recreational trips.

For the past four years, Larry Lambdin, the club's mentor/leader, has had Club Live sponsor a Bread & Broth Adopt A Day of Nourishment and offer three to four of the clubs' members the opportunity to help those dealing with poverty.

This year, Club Live members Jerry and Tabatha Guebard, Veronica Magana and Ruby Regalado, along with their adult mentors Lambdin and Robert Guebard joined the B&B volunteers at the May 28 Monday meal to welcome and feed the dinner's guests.

"This was an eye opening opportunity for us," commented Tabatha and Jerry Guebard. "First we got to see many people in need receive a meal and groceries to take home which was very heartwarming.

"It was very educational and we learned a lot of skills and tips about serving others," they added.

B&B would like to commend the Live Club members for their helpfulness in serving our dinner clients and helping with the dinner's setup and cleanup. Club Live is a wonderful teaching tool for leadership skills and a valuable resource to help children in our community see how their actions impact the lives of others.

Carol Gerard, Bread & Broth

Pacific Legal Foundation rep to speak at SOJ meeting

John Cameron will be the guest speaker at the El Dorado County State of Jefferson (SOJ) meeting on June 12 at the American Legion Hall, 4561 Greenstone Road in Placerville.

Cameron is the Pacific Legal Foundation's liberty society manager. Since 1973, Pacific Legal Foundation has successfully litigated for limited government, private property rights and free enterprise in the nation's highest courts. PLF has had nine victories in their 11 cases heard before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cameron and his associate will touch on regulatory issues and property rights, as well as some of PLF's historic cases.

SOJ meetings are open to the public and admission is free. Social hour, which includes food, is from 5:30 to 6:30pm. The meeting begins at 6:30pm.

State of Jefferson meetings are the second Tuesday of each month, always at the same date time and location.

Scrutinizing Google's influence on elections

By Ronald Robertson, The Conversation

As the 2018 midterm elections approach in the U.S., Google's power to influence undecided voters remains overshadowed by Facebook's personal data crisis.

Facebook has "taken it on the chin" for its role in the 2016 presidential election, and organizations like the political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica and the Russian troll farm known as the Internet Research Agency have dominated headlines. Yet, despite having a troubling history and collecting more personal data through more products than Facebook, Google has somehow managed to evade the public spotlight on this one. That may be changing.

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee recently sent Google a letter asking a series of questions about the company's personal data protections. As one of the researchers who helped discover that search engines can substantially influence users' voting preferences, I found the last question to be the most intriguing: "Are you aware of any foreign entities seeking to influence or interfere with U.S. elections through your platforms?" If Google's response to this question exists, it has not been made public.

Search engine influence

Since 2013, I've been involved in the design and execution of a long series of experiments that have demonstrated how search engines can influence undecided voters' candidate choices through nearly undetectable manipulations to search rankings. We labeled this powerful new form of influence the search engine manipulation effect.

The way this effect works is simple: Favoritism for a particular candidate in election-related search rankings leads to people preferring that candidate. For example, a search related to an upcoming election might return results favoring candidate A higher than results favoring candidate B. That's called partisan ranking bias. Since people tend to click on

and trust highly ranked results, more people will then trust and consume the information supporting candidate A. In turn, that consumption increases their preference for candidate A.

The most important aspect of this effect, however, is that most people can't detect the partisan ranking bias – and it's virtually impossible to defend yourself from influences you can't perceive. Fortunately, in three follow-up experiments, involving 3,600 participants, we demonstrated that alerting people to partisan ranking bias can help suppress the effect – though only laws or regulations actually preventing partisan ranking could eliminate the effect entirely.

Why focus on Google?

Google handles more than 60 percent of internet search activity in the U.S., and nearly 90 percent worldwide. Every year, this translates to trillions of queries related to people's private thoughts, concerns and questions.

With respect to news, search engines are a bigger source than social media. Although an often cited 2016 Pew study found that a majority, 62 percent, of U.S. adults got news on social media, the devil is in the details. If you unpack that statistic, you'll find that 18 percent do so "hardly ever." Added to the 38 percent of Americans who "never" got news on social media, the same study suggests that social media is a negligible source of news for 56 percent of Americans, also a majority.

Think about it: When you need to fact-check something or learn more about a topic, what do you do? You Google it. This fact is supported by a recent international survey that found that 74 percent of participants reported using search engines to fact-check information they found on social media. The same survey found that 68 percent reported that the information they found while searching was "important to influencing their decisions about voting."

What does Google think?

Google's executives rarely make public responses to critiques of its search system. But in 2015, my colleague Robert Epstein published an article in *Politico* – entitled “How Google Could Rig the 2016 Election” – and that did the trick. Google's head of search at the time, Amit Singhal, responded with his own article, calling Epstein a conspiracy theorist, stating that “there is absolutely no truth to Epstein's hypothesis that Google could work secretly to influence election outcomes” and that “Google has never ever re-ranked search results on any topic (including elections) to manipulate user sentiment.”

Singhal's first claim is hard to believe, unless you dismiss our research, our replication, and the independent research built on our findings. Search engines do have the capacity to shift people's opinions, including who to vote for.

His second claim, that Google “never ever re-ranked search results,” also doesn't quite hold up: The EU recently fined the company \$2.7 billion for ranking its own services higher in search results than its competitors.

Defending democracy

Another one of the Judiciary Committee's questions to Google also struck a chord with me: “How do you monitor the ability of foreign entities to influence and interfere with U.S. elections?”

This question struck me because I've been developing systems for exactly this purpose – preserving search rankings and analyzing them for systematic differences – for several years. In the course of this work, however, I've come to believe that freeing the democratic process from technologically enabled influences is virtually impossible without the cooperation of modern tech giants.

Facebook is now offering to collaborate with academic

researchers who can measure and perhaps lessen or prevent undue influence on elections, and Twitter is doing something similar. Related efforts are also bringing transparency to other platforms like YouTube and Reddit. When will Google get on board?

At an upcoming conference, I will present the latest system I've been designing with Christo Wilson, a leading scientist in the field of algorithm auditing, for monitoring search rankings for partisan bias. With a little assistance from Google, no more than Facebook is offering, accurately monitoring or preventing search engine influence in the 2018 elections is actually a feasible goal. Without the company's help, things look bleak.

Although Google is an advertising business, its core is composed of creative and intelligent individuals who care deeply about the impact their work has on the world. This is evidenced by the recent letter signed by more than 3,100 Google employees protesting the use of their work in warfare technology. Nearly a dozen Google workers went so far as to resign in protest.

Perhaps the day is fast approaching when Google will step up, as Facebook, Twitter and Reddit have, to help defend democracy from the new world of computational propaganda. Perhaps there is already a letter circulating internally and gathering signatures. With state and federal primary elections already underway, let's hope so.

Ronald Robertson is a doctoral student in network science at Northeastern University.