

Nev. awaits Supreme Court ruling on sports betting

By Gary Martin, Las Vegas Review-Journal

WASHINGTON – With millions expected to be wagered illegally on the upcoming Super Bowl, Nevada and gaming officials are eagerly awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court decision on whether states should be allowed to offer legal sports betting.

The Supreme Court delayed a decision on a case brought by New Jersey that challenges a federal law that allows sports wagering only in Nevada and three other states: Delaware, Montana and Oregon.

Nevada has not filed a brief in the case, and Gov. Brian Sandoval said a ruling in favor of New Jersey would help in the fight to reduce illegal gaming and would do little to hurt the Silver State's position as a global destination for gambling and entertainment.

Read the whole story

Human trafficking awareness at root of flash mob

Feb. 4 is the day before the Super Bowl, which is one of the single largest events for sex trafficking in the nation.

A group will be gathering to dance and call attention to the millions of men, women, and children who are trafficked every year. South Lake Tahoe will be part of the One Billion Rising

Flash Mob to raise awareness around sex trafficking.

It will take place at 2pm in Heavenly Village in front of Base Camp Pizza.

Greenway bike agreements being secured

By Kathryn Reed

The clock is ticking to have all the agreements in place for the next segment of the Greenway Bike Trail to get built.

The California Tahoe Conservancy would have to give up part of the \$4 million it has secured if all parties are not on board by May 1.

The one mile of trail will start at Bijou Meadow, connect to Bijou Community Park, then cross Al Tahoe Boulevard to connect to Lake Tahoe Community College and the community ball field.

Money for this phase comes from:

- CTC – \$1 million
- LTCC Measure F – \$700,000
- Tahoe Transportation District – \$400,000
- State grant – \$1.9 million.

The CTC, Lake Tahoe Community College and city of South Lake Tahoe have negotiated a land swap in the Al Tahoe Boulevard area to make the route a reality. The college and city electeds still need to vote on it. This is expected to happen

this month.

Last week the South Lake Tahoe Recreation Facilities Joint Powers Authority board agreed to a memorandum of understanding that would provide money for trail maintenance.

In 2015, 0.42 miles of the Greenway was built between Herbert Avenue and Glenwood Way. The eventual goal is for the trail to go from Meyers to Stateline, with connections to other trails along the way.

Letter: Chemicals not the answer for TK weeds

To the community,

There are several non-chemical methods available today, that used in combination for killing, removing and decaying the invasive weeds and their food source, will eliminate the weeds not just one time, but permanently.

There is no need to use chemicals that combined with the algae will create bacteria that has been proven to cause neurotoxins that cause Parkinson's, Lou Gehrig's disease, etc. The chemicals that are put in breakdown into other chemicals that never leave the lake, but worse, is the bacteria that is created in the water that we drink, swim and bathe in.

Cyanobacteria has also now been proven to go airborne. Our water supply systems do not clean for the chemicals that remain after the herbicide has broken down.

Support the use of a non-chemical methods that used in a systematic combination will be a model to the country and

world on how to clean lakes without chemicals.

Elise Fett, Crystal Bay

Housing crunch exacts heavy price on Californians

By Vanessa Rancano, KQED-TV

California is producing less than half the new homes it needs to meet demand in the Golden State.

In its first comprehensive analysis since the year 2000, California's Department of Housing and Community Development paints a bleak picture of the state's housing landscape. While it points to some hopeful developments, the report suggests lawmakers will need to consider serious policy changes if California is going to build the projected 1.8 million new homes needed by 2025.

The Statewide Housing Assessment Report is still in draft form, and its authors are gathering public input at workshops around the state. On Monday a small group of mostly local government representatives and advocates met in Fresno to hear the report's findings.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Highway 89 around Emerald Bay is open.
 - The Truckee chamber is putting on a workshop for independent contractors and businesses that use them. It will be Feb. 16 from 8:30-10am. For more info and to register, go **online**.
 - South Lake Tahoe's warm room needs people to serve on the following committees: fundraising, volunteer training and recruitment, budget-finance, and operations. Email Marissa at tahoewarmroom@gmail.com or call 775.573.0822 to volunteer.
 - IMBIB Brewing Company of Reno was awarded two medals in the 2017 Best of Craft Beer Awards – a gold medal for Nevada Weisse and a silver for Belgian Dark Strong Ale.
 - Sierra Business Council and SCORE of Northern Nevada are putting on a seminar for people wanting to start their own business. It is Feb. 2 from 5:30-7pm in Truckee. Go **online** for more info.
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EDC woman assaulted on West Slope trail

An El Dorado County woman walking a West Slope bike trail with her child in a stroller was sexually assaulted on the afternoon of Jan. 27.



The suspect's shoe.

A male approached her from behind and asked her about the location of a nearby business. He asked for a dollar and then to shake her hand to thank her. When the suspect grabbed a hold of her hand, he pulled her in close and used his other hand to sexually assault her, according to El Dorado County sheriff's deputies.

She screamed and fought until he released her.

While running away south on the trail near Missouri Flat Road, the suspect lost his shoe.

He is described as being 14- to 20-years-old, a dark skinned Hispanic, 5-feet-7, 130 pounds, dark hair and brown eyes. His hair was described as messy, with two to three inches in length that stood straight up. He was wearing a sky blue short sleeve polo shirt, blue jeans and red Nike shoes.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Anthony Prencipe at 530.642.4709.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Trevor Bartholomew— 1982-2017



Trevor James Bartholomew

Trevor James Bartholomew, who graduated from Whittell High School in 2000, died Jan. 21, 2017. He was 34.

He was born Feb. 19, 1982, and grew up in Stateline.

At Whittell he played soccer, was a member of the ski team, and was loved by his classmates. His sense of humor and ability to make others laugh was unlike any other.

Whether he was hiking, backpacking, rock climbing Lover's Leap or racing down the slopes at Heavenly, he loved and longed to be in the great outdoors.

As Trevor aged, he bravely endured life's physical and mental challenges. He cared so deeply about our world. There was a frustration, hope and an intense drive to make positive changes.

Trevor is survived by his parents, Mark and Stephanie, younger brother Chase, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to NAMI El Dorado County, P0 Box 393, El Dorado, CA 95623 or Warm Room, P0 Box 13514, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151.

Placer County recovering from storm damage

By Michael Rohm

The first thing Harold Slear saw when he walked through the main entrance of Boatworks Mall in Tahoe City just before noon Jan. 8 was merchants pulling inventory from their waterlogged stores.

The owner of James-Harold Galleries, Slear was late for work because he had needed to clear his driveway of the snow that had been falling heavily all night and into the morning. That same precipitation was now responsible for disorder on a greater scale.

"I came in and saw that it was literally raining from the ceiling," he told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Slear walked first to the nearby 1960 Winter Games and Sierra Ski Museum. When he saw the extent of the damage he called his friend David Antonucci. "I think you're going to want to see this," he told him.

The flat roof at Boatworks Mall had already accumulated 3 feet of snow. When the heavy rain hit that weekend, an additional foot of precipitation augmented the snowpack and swelled above the exhaust ducts in the roof. There was nowhere for the water to go but down the ducts and into the building. The stores beneath these ducts, including the Sierra Ski Museum, were in the direct path of the water.

Despite his meticulous preservation of artifacts, Sierra Ski Museum co-founder David Antonucci, was worried as he drove to the mall. The damage that Slear had described on the phone was unprecedented. Dripping ceiling. Ruined walls. Standing water.



Heaters and blowers work to dry out the ski museum in Tahoe City. Photo/David Antonucci

“This museum is probably the best collection of artifacts from the 1960 Winter Olympics,” Antonucci told *Lake Tahoe News*. “It’s really one of kind.”

When he arrived, Antonucci was relieved to find that his security measures had paid off. The glass cases surrounding the artifacts had kept everything dry.

“It’s really amazing that nothing was damaged,” he said.

Other shops were not as fortunate. According to Antonucci, Geared for Games and Tahoe Shoe & Clothing Co., two stores directly below his museum, were “a complete loss.”

No one from either store could be reached for comment.

In the days following the damage, Channel Properties, the real estate agency that owns Boatworks Mall, began remediation and repair. When the company hired to do the job proved too small for the extensive damage, Channel brought in BELFOR, the largest restoration contractor in the world.

"We got called in because we had the resources to handle it," said Mark Malcuit, project manager and estimator for BELFOR. "We came in with a large crew to start removing wet material and to dry out the building."

Since then, the 16-person crew with dehumidifiers have worked around the clock to get the damaged stores back in business. "We've finished with demolition and the mall is just about dry," Malcuit said. "Within another month or so we should have everything put back together."

The atmospheric river that overwhelmed the drainage system at Boatworks Mall has wreaked havoc throughout all of Lake Tahoe. Placer County eventually declared a local emergency because of the exact conditions that had impacted Boatworks Mall and several other local businesses. The county estimates the financial damage to local infrastructure is as high as \$8 million.

DeDe Cordell, director of communications and public affairs for Placer County, urges small business owners to report any property damage.

"We're trying to get folks to reach out to make sure we're connected and tracking damages for local business," she told *Lake Tahoe News*. "If we're able to get federal assistance, the small business administration can offer assistance."

Small business owners affected by the storms may contact Placer County Economic Development Director Sherri Conway at 530.889.4096 or go **online** for more information.

Opinion: EDC supes vote to raise taxes

By Larry Weitzman

At the Jan. 24 El Dorado County Board of Supervisors meeting, not only was there a 5-0 vote to support a \$7 billion annual increase in gasoline tax and vehicle registrations fees, there was another agenda item (No. 30) also having to do with raising taxes.



Larry Weitzman

Item No. 30 on the agenda, which had no direct actual references to raising taxes or exploring such an idea, stems from the CAO's recommendation not to unwind the Missouri Flat Master Circulation and Financing Plan for road maintenance funding, which is in the 2016-17 budget.

The actual agenda item read: "Chief Administrative Office, Community Development Agency Transportation Division, and County Counsel recommending the Board: 1) Receive a presentation on the following: a) The condition of the County's road infrastructure, including a discussion of the County's Pavement Management System; b) The current road maintenance funding situation within the State and the County; c) The possibility of using Missouri Flat Master Circulation

and Financing Plan (MC&FP) funding for road maintenance; 2) Receive and file the attached Staff Report on the same; and 3) Provide policy direction to staff regarding the MC&FP and options to explore for road maintenance funding.”

The discussion went to exploring the feasibility of raising the hotel tax, the franchise fee on trash collection and a special sales tax.

Because the agenda item says “options” of funding it is not a Brown Act violation to have approved wanting to explore increasing taxes.

Two motions were made, the first by Supervisor Shiva Frentzen to limit the feasibility study to everything but the special sales tax. That motion failed for lack of a second.

Another motion was made by Supervisor Brian Veerkamp to include the feasibility of raising all the aforementioned taxes, including the sales tax. That motioned was seconded by Supervisor Sue Novasel. It was carried by a vote of 4-1, with Frentzen voting no vote.

Both motions also directed staff to pursue additional options for road maintenance revenue. There was no motion made to explore cutting General Fund spending.

Regarding the gas tax and registration fees, on average the deal will cost every resident of EDC \$180 annually on a per capita basis. According to CAO Don Ashton, EDC would receive about one-third of the amount collected back for road maintenance – about \$60 per person.

Larry Weitzman is a resident of Rescue.