

Opinion: USFS faces century-old call for equality

By James G. Lewis, High Country News

The third applicant was “no gentleman,” the U.S. Forest Service ranger wrote to his boss, but would still make a first-class fire lookout on the remote Klamath National Forest. He thought little of the first applicant’s abilities, and the second had poor eyesight, though that didn’t prevent him from frequently violating the local game laws. Yet the third candidate was so unusual, ranger M.H. McCarthy cautioned, “I hope your heart is strong enough to stand the shock.”

For the shocking third applicant was a woman, Hallie Morse Daggett, though McCarthy added that she “is absolutely devoid of the timidity which is ordinarily associated with her sex.”

McCarthy told his supervisor not to worry about being overrun by female applicants in the future “since we can hardly expect these positions to ever become very popular with the Fair Sex.” What is telling in light of recent news about the systemic problem of discrimination throughout the Forest Service is that this was written 105 years ago.

Read the whole story

California could restart

executions

By Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

California's death row has ballooned to nearly 750 inmates and the state hasn't executed a murderer in more than 12 years.

That could change soon.

California voters in 2016 approved Proposition 66, which attempted to remove regulatory hurdles to executions.

Among the 35 largest counties in the state, Kings, Riverside, Shasta and El Dorado counties have the highest rates of death row inmates per 1,000 homicides. The lowest rates were in Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Merced and Solano counties.

Read the whole story

NDOT to complete Hwy. 50 work near Cave Rock

Beginning May 7, single lane closures will be in place on Highway 50 near Cave Rock as the Nevada Department of Transportation completes roadside slope repairs.

In the winter of 2016-17, numerous boulders the size of large passenger vehicles fell from a roadside slope onto eastbound travel lanes of 50 near Logan Creek Drive north of Cave Rock.

Last summer, NDOT began construction of a **roadside wall** to reinforce and encase the approximately 60-foot high slope and help prevent future erosion. Anchor bars were drilled into the

slope to secure heavy-duty mesh. The mesh was then covered with more than 1,000 yards of thick sprayable “shotcrete” concrete to create what is called a soil nail wall.

Beginning Monday, travel will be reduced to one lane in each direction as construction crews apply the final aesthetic layer of concrete and finalize repairs to roadway surface and curbing damaged by the boulders. The concrete will be hand-sculpted to match colors and textures of nearby natural roadside slopes.

Construction is anticipated to complete, and the highway opened to two lanes in each direction, later this year.

Feds plan to roll back sage grouse protections

By Henry Brean, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Interior Department released revised planning documents last week formalizing the Trump administration’s push to relax protections for the greater sage grouse in Nevada and 10 other states.

Interior officials said the six draft resource management plan amendments – including one that covers both Nevada and a portion of northeastern California – would give states more flexibility to administer conservation efforts to protect the threatened bird without hindering economic development.

Read the whole story

Full moon nature hike on South Shore

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe Institute for Natural Science will be hosting monthly full moon hikes from May through August.

Take a walk under the silver moonlight in search for creatures of the night and uncover the mysteries of the night sky.

The May 30 event will be on the South Shore from 7:30-9:30pm.

TINS naturalists will explore the secrets of Tahoe's nocturnal natural history. The first hour will include a hike around the Rainbow Trail at Taylor Creek Visitor Center in search of animals that inhabit the water, sky, and ground while learning about their strategies to thrive in the darkness. For the second hour, the group head down the beach at lake's edge to view celestial objects in the night sky.

Register **online**.

Spring Cleanup day scheduled for S. Lake Tahoe

Clean Tahoe and the city of South Lake Tahoe are organizing the 3rd annual Spring Cleanup on May 12, 9am-noon.

Join friends and neighbors to work together to spruce up the

town.Groups of volunteers are getting together to clean a number of areas, including Stateline, Ski Run, Al Tahoe, Bijou, Tahoe Sierra/Sierra Tract, Tahoe Island, and the Y.

Go **online** to register and select a location (or suggest another location to clean).

All volunteers are invited to a free barbecue lunch and celebration at Bijou Park afterward.

Call if you have any questions – 530.544.4210.

Novasel: Wanting to build on accomplishments

Publisher's note: *Profiles for the four El Dorado County District 5 supervisorial candidates will be running on May 6 and May 7.*



Sue Novasel

Name: Sue Novasel

Age: 62

Occupation: Incumbent – El Dorado County supervisor

Education: Bachelor's degree from University of Nevada, Reno; AA degree from Lake Tahoe Community College; high school diploma from Salinas High School

What elected, civic, nonprofit boards or groups are or have you been affiliated with and in what capacity?:

El Dorado County – County supervisor (2015-current) and vice chair

Lake Tahoe Unified School District – School board trustee (2003-15); past president

TRPA – current Governing Board member

California Tahoe Conservancy – current board member

Tahoe Transportation District – current board member

South Lake Tahoe Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority – current board member

First Five Commission – current commissioner

EDC VHR Ad Hoc Committee – current member

EDC Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee – current member

EDC Broadband Ad Hoc Committee – current member

EDC Human Rights Committee – current member

California State Association of Counties – current board member

Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care – current board member and past president of the board

Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe – current member and past president

Meyers Community Plan Team – past member

Meyers Roundtable Committee – past chair and member

Lake Tahoe Community College Foundation – past board president.

Why do you want to be supervisor?: I am running because I want to continue to protect and improve the quality of life for our county and our local communities. I believe my 15 years of public service experience and 30 years on various public and private local organizations, my integrity and my continued commitment to work for our community make me the best candidate for the job.

This is a nonpartisan position. How will you conduct your duties in a nonpartisan manner?: I listen to all sides of an issue before making a decision. It is important to keep an open mind in this job and to understand that there are lots of differing views and opinions on any one subject. Party politics should not play a role in the decision making process – it's about doing what is best for our county – not what is politically correct.

Why should people vote for you over one of the other candidates?: The most important qualifications to this job are possessing the skills, professionalism, and experience to work with others on a board. I feel I am the most qualified and skilled as I have over 15 years as a public servant and an excellent working relationship with the current board. I was recently made vice chair of the Board of Supervisors, which is an honor and an important job for the future of our board. I have the unique skill set needed to collaborate and successfully reach consensus with my fellow board members.

How are you going to resolve the CalPERS issue?: Since the Great Recession, CalPERS (California's state public pension system) has made it difficult, if not impossible, for most of the state's jurisdictions to fully fund future retirements of our public workers. This has left our county with a huge

retirement fund debt – and one that our board has acknowledged and is working to solve. Over this last year, our county put away \$5.7 million to help with funding this debt. We are expecting to add \$1.3 million to a “prefund” account this year in the hopes that we can keep this issue to a minimum. The biggest difficulty is that CalPERS keeps changing their model, thereby adding more debt to jurisdictions around the state. We continue to watch closely these changes and will be proactive in working for solutions to the pension system issue.

Should the government be responsible for solving the affordable housing issue as well as homelessness? Why or why not to both? If yes, how would you solve those issues?:

Affordable housing and homelessness are not mutually exclusive. With the average rental in South Shore well above the “30 percent rule” that says that paying more than 30 percent of your income on housing is “unaffordable,” it’s easy to see why affordable housing is such a huge problem. Government needs to help wherever it is possible since taxpayers end up paying for social services for those who can’t afford to pay for services associated with homelessness. I recently created a Housing Task Force, convening local jurisdictions from around the lake to see what government can do to help. From that task force, a group of private and public members have decided to start a pilot project that is aimed at creating affordable workforce housing. I have agreed to chair the new Housing Tahoe project and am looking forward to starting the project. The goal is to build a new “toolbox” of ways to combat the lack of affordable housing in our community. Our large private employers have also stepped up to be a part of the solution – one such employer, Vail Corporation, has current employee housing and seeking additional property locations for their workforce.

To date the county has not been able to fix the traffic issue in Meyers with tourists clogging up residential streets. What is your solution?: Meyers traffic is nothing new. What is new

are the apps and smart GPS in cars that now route more and more traffic into our local neighborhoods. We have tried warning tourists about dangerous snow conditions on local roads through new signs and ordinances but that is difficult to manage and enforce. Our transportation director has created a new “nudge” program that diverts travelers away from North Upper Truckee by using flashing signs and traffic cones, thus making the route looked closed; although it is illegal to actually close the roads to “through” traffic. Nudging has helped but we all know this is not a permanent solution. We have been in talks with CHP for two years about other possibilities – the latest idea is to create an “electronic blackout.” There are still concerns about this idea but the county and CHP are now looking into the legality of the idea as we continue to search for a solution.

What are your thoughts of making Lake Tahoe its own county?:

In 1984, a Tahoe County Formation Review Commission was formed and a 108-page financial analysis of a proposed Tahoe County was developed. I have read the report and it sits in my office, if anyone is interested in looking at it. It failed to gain enough support – and that was back in the '80s when South Lake Tahoe was a large contributor to the county for revenue. We took a down turn when Indian gaming started to pop up in California and Tahoe revenues have dropped dramatically ever since then. With less revenue, a new county would have the effect of reduced services and revenue then what we currently receive from El Dorado. For that reason, I do not support the idea of a Tahoe County.

What entities would you not take money from?: I will not accept campaign contributions from any organization or business whose integrity is questionable; anyone whose activities bring harm to District V or our quality of life; and/or threaten the safety and well-being of our children, neighborhoods, schools, or businesses. I expect to receive support from a wide variety of individuals and entities.

Anyone providing financial support must understand that supporting my candidacy does not mean having the expectation of getting my vote on an issue.

What is the No. 1 issue facing District 5 and how do you propose to resolve it?: Affordable housing is a critical issue throughout my district. Development and redevelopment needs to focus on how to address the lack of housing by offering projects that give our citizens the ability to live and grow in walkable, bike-friendly communities – ones that offer plentiful recreation while meeting the infrastructure needs. As a Governing Board member to the TRPA and member of the Housing Tahoe program, we are currently searching for ways to allow incentives for affordable housing. A necessary component of proper housing is transportation. Reliable and free transportation systems not only benefit our communities by reducing traffic, they also serve as a viable alternative for a cleaner environment while allowing for better transit options when planned with housing projects. This, however, requires state and federal funding which is not so easy to find. As a board member on the Tahoe Transportation District, I support the search for new funding mechanisms that enhance reliable alternative transportation in our communities. A Meyers bus is now being proposed as part of the newest Transportation Plan. I support this bus service as being a critical link in the basin and our district's ability to move forward in long-term transit solutions.

Do you believe supervisors should meet in Tahoe more often? Why or why not?: I would like to meet more often in Tahoe. Logistically, it can be difficult and costly for the staff and other board members to travel and finding a large enough room can be difficult, too, as we recently experienced. I do find that since we have digital services which include videotaping of our board meetings, access to the board meetings and specific topics is much easier for citizens in El Dorado County, increasing citizen engagement and accessibility in a

very efficient way. I also attend regular joint meetings with the City Council where the city of South Lake Tahoe and county both present their major issues and discuss items where joint effort is needed. This is an important element to proper city/county collaboration.

Would you support having more tax dollars from the county coming to the South Shore? Currently, more dollars leave the basin than come back.: I want to be sure that District V is getting its fair share and have fought to be sure it happens. However, I don't know of any study or analysis showing that more dollars leave the basin than come back and have my doubts that this is true. For example, the basin, with about 20 percent of the county population, has its own set of secondary offices for more general departments than any other district or any other jurisdiction in the basin. El Dorado County is the only local jurisdiction to have a local juvenile hall and jail facility. When you add up the costs for those direct and indirect services and facilities, our local expenses and revenues are not far from equal.

What is your vision for the 56-acres in South Lake Tahoe?: My vision the 56-acres area is the same that it was when I participated as a community member on the 56-acre Design Review Committee many years ago. That committee process came up with the Lakeview Commons design and envisioned the entire 56-acres as the "Central Park" of South Lake Tahoe. The design also called for a new farmers market area and a re-design of the entire campground. And although there are issues ahead as to how the county and city work together to fulfill those plans, the plans are there and should be reviewed as we entered into a new agreement between the two jurisdictions.

Do you support having vacation home rentals? Why or why not?: When I travel, I prefer to stay in family homes rather than small, cramped hotel rooms. That being said, I realize that this ballooning type of travel has created some real issues when dealing with unruly, rude and/or over-bearing home

renters. I feel that the biggest issue for the county is how to create new regulations so that enforcement can work to regain quiet, peaceful neighborhoods once again. As a member of the County Ad Hoc Committee for VHRs, we are studying enforcement issues and programs throughout the state, looking for viable solutions. We have already established that a new system of enforcement – one done through our code enforcement department rather than the tax collector – is an important first step in the right direction. We have identified seven other areas that will be corrected in the near future. Other issues such as clustering, total occupancy, bans and moratoriums are all to be studied and decided upon soon. A public process has been established where all sides of this contentious issue will be allowed to voice their concerns and issues.

What have you accomplished in the last four years?: When I was first elected to the board, our county leadership was in turmoil. Since hiring a new CAO nearly two years ago, the culture and workings of the county have vastly improved. Our board developed a new strategic plan and has attached those goals to our budget, thereby ensuring that our top priorities are funding properly. One of those priorities is to improve our deteriorating infrastructure. Our recent purchase of the old Al Tahoe Post Office will improve the El Dorado Center in South Lake Tahoe and proves that we are keeping our promise to infrastructure improvements. In Pollock Pines, we purchased a local park, ensuring that our youth continue to enjoy a proper baseball field as well as improving other recreational programs. As the First Five Commissioner to the Board of Supervisors, I worked to create a new Community Hub program, which will bring critical services to needy families who visit our libraries. In Tahoma, when a road project didn't go as expected, I held a series of meetings and worked on securing funding to fix the problem. I also pushed for new funding for our local roads by making sure that a new compact with our local tribe includes the ability to use the money we receive

for badly needed road work – nearly \$2.5 million per year in funding. In the future, I will continue to work to make sure our district receives our fair share of funding and needed infrastructure work.

Tell us something about yourself that people might not know: I have been married to my husband for 34 years and have two amazing daughters. I was a ski instructor at Heavenly and went on to own and operate my own business.

I'm an avid skier in the winter, mountain biker in the summer, and love to use my kayak in Tahoe as often as possible. Many people don't know that I was an Olympic torch runner when it came through town in 1984 on its way to the Summer Games in Los Angeles. The beauty and recreation of Tahoe brought my family here when I was growing up and it is still the most beautiful place in the world.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Nepheles restaurant in South Lake Tahoe has closed after more than 40 years.
- Lake Tahoe Master Gardeners and UC Davis TERC will talk about growing potatoes at this elevation. The talk will be May 14 at the Tahoe City Field Station. Doors open at 5pm, presentation begins at 5:30pm.
- State of Jefferson's second candidates' forum will be May 8 at the American Legion Hall in Placerville. Secretary of State candidate Mark Meuser will attend, as well as El Dorado County candidates for district attorney, auditor, recorder-clerk and District 4 supervisor. Doors open at 5:30pm, with forum starting at 6:30pm.

- Truckee's 15th annual cleanup day is June 2. At 8am neighborhood check-in stations open; cleaning is from 9am-noon; barbecue at Truckee Regional Park is at noon. For more info, call 530.582.7700.

- The Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association's Water Quality Committee has launched an updated **website**.

Running event to benefit TY&FS

Tahoe Youth & Family Services' inaugural 5k Fun Run will be June 9 starting at 8am during Carson Valley Days.

The theme of Carson Valley Days this year is Fun in the Great Outdoors, and the fun run will carry this theme as well. Participants who choose to come dressed in the theme have a chance to win prizes.

Cost is \$30 for adults, \$10 for 17 and younger. The deadline to **sign up online** is June 8. There will be a chance to register the morning of the run, but fees go up \$5.

All proceeds go to help the nonprofit with mentoring programs.

Tahoe Cup paddleboard race

series on North Shore

Officially the longest running paddle race series in the Lake Tahoe region, the Tahoe Cup Paddle Race celebrates its 11th anniversary this year with four events scheduled between May and September.

The series offers the recreational paddler and the race enthusiast an opportunity to participate in SUP, prone paddleboard or OC1 class races on Lake Tahoe.

All four events will take place on Lake Tahoe, with events scheduled on May 26, July 21, Aug. 25 and Sept. 15. Register **online**.

Proceeds will benefit the nonprofit Lake Tahoe Waterman Association, an organization dedicated to preserving the California Tahoe Conservancy land that provides public access to Lake Tahoe in Carnelian Bay. LTWA also works to educate the public on the value of non-motorized paddle sports. Beginning this year, the Tahoe Cup Paddle Race Series will be the primary fundraising mechanism for the Lake Tahoe Waterman Association.