

Concealed weapons ruling spotlights Calif.'s role in gun debate

By Maura Dolan and Brittny Mejia, Los Angeles Times

A federal appeals court ruling that gave gun control advocates a major victory Thursday underscored California's rising importance as a center of legal and political battles over guns.

The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decided in a 7-4 ruling that California counties may restrict permits for carrying concealed firearms in public. That decision overturned a 2014 ruling that prompted some California counties to relax their rules.

"It should not be minimized how big a victory this was for gun control advocates," said UCLA law Professor Adam Winkler. "Not only does it affirm the constitutionality of restrictive conceal-carry laws in California's major cities, it also makes it less likely the Supreme Court will step in."

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

• Tahoe Improv Players will be at Valhalla on the South Shore on June 28, July 5, July 19 and Aug. 2; 7:30pm each night in the Grand Hall. Cost is \$12. Tickets may be purchased **online**.

- The U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in collaboration with the California Tahoe Conservancy will resume work on the Upper Truckee River Reach 5 restoration project on June 13.
 - Lakeview Summer Music Series will return to Lakeview Commons in South Lake Tahoe on June 23. The free concerts run through Aug. 25 from 4:30-8:30pm.
 - Incline Village Visitors Center (969 Tahoe Blvd.) has launched the Artist Loft featuring unique Tahoe art from local artists.
 - Former South Lake Tahoe City Manager Tony O'Rourke is back in Colorado. He is city administrator for the town of Canon.
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Wood cutting in Humboldt-Toiyabe allowed

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's Carson Ranger District opened dead, and down and dead tree woodcutting areas today.

The dead tree areas include: Dog Valley area near Reno and Hope Valley, Leviathan/Poor Boy, and Wolf Creek Road (dead burned trees) areas near Markleeville. The down and dead tree areas are in Woodfords Canyon and the Washington Fire burned area near Markleeville. No cutting of standing live trees are allowed in these areas.

Firewood permits, which expires Nov. 15, may be purchased for \$15 per cord with a two cord minimum. In addition, woodcutters need to be familiar with the terms and conditions of their

permit, since different cutting areas may have slightly different rules and regulations. Live tree woodcutting areas will not open until July 28.

A fire extinguisher and a shovel are required when using a chainsaw for cutting firewood. Cutting restrictions may go into effect during the woodcutting season. It is the woodcutter's responsibility to find out what restrictions are in effect.

Permits with maps of cutting areas may be purchased by calling 775.882.2766.

Renowned Nev. epidemiologist talks diseases

By Susan Wood

RENO – And the doctor worked on.

Questioning whether Mary Guinan has fulfilled a storied career in medicine is like asking Nevadans if they want clean air and Americans if they want to be disease free.

A notable epidemiologist, the 76-year-old distinguished physician not only served as the Silver State's chief health officer from 1998 to 2002 and 2005-06, she was on the front lines of the first AIDS cases while working for the Centers for Disease Control for 20 years.

And now, an East Shore resident, she has written a book – "Adventures of a Female Medical Detective."

She read excerpts and signed copies this week at Sundance

Books in Reno.



Mary Guinan, left, talks with people after the June 7 reading at Sundance Books in Reno. Photos/Susan Wood

Much of the book chronicles those critical, painful years of treating the AIDS epidemic, with all its stigmas and challenges. It was a shameful, fear-based era in American health. AIDS represented a death sentence to mostly gay men, who were disowned and disenfranchised from society.

The disease, which burst on the scene in mainly metropolitan areas in the early 1980s, has claimed 36 million. Still today 50,000 cases are reported each year. In the early years, the team with Guinan at the CDC launched an undaunted fight to understand AIDS, which has no cure or vaccine – just treatment for the HIV immune system deficiency symptoms. These medical soldiers' work was documented in Randy Shilts' book "And the Band Played On." There's a scene in the story in which Guinan and her colleague realize they both connected with Patient 0, the first to be chronicled. Their "aha" looks told the story of the monumental task ahead of them as they tried feverishly

to understand and isolate the disease.

But it was the reaction of society to those infected that left Guinan with the sinking feeling that discrimination was alive and well in the United States.

"The fear was overwhelming. People were thrown out of their apartments, lost their jobs," she told the group. She told *Lake Tahoe News* earlier that some mothers approach her after her talks declaring they disowned their gay sons with AIDS, "a decision they've regretted the rest of their lives."

Any regrets from the front line of the AIDS fight?

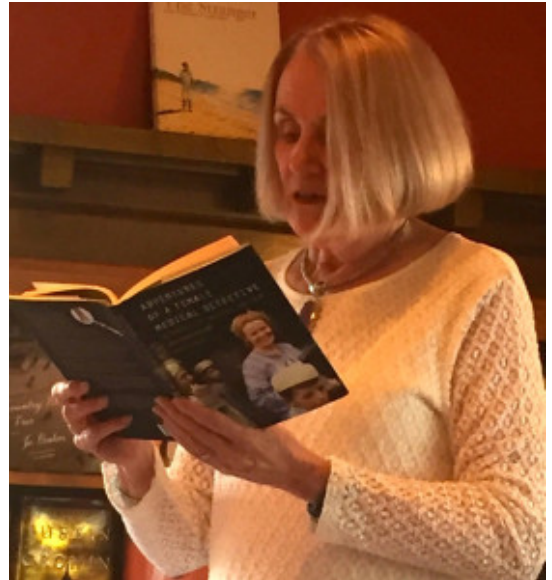
"I wished we could have eliminated the hatred," Guinan said in the *LTN* interview, while adding: "My son (at 30) didn't know much about the time. He read the book and couldn't believe what life was like. People of his generation couldn't care less who's gay."

She even conducted a talk in Ireland and thanked the citizens for passing an initiative to legalize same-sex marriage.

"I told them they shamed New York City," Guinan said.

The chapter of her book dictating how homophobia gripped the nation in the 1980s and '90s was difficult to write, she told the group.

"It took me a long time to write it because it was so sad," she said, while a hush came over the room. "Still people don't want to be tested because they don't want to be identified."



Mary Guinan

She read a passage about the story of a woman shamed by her husband, a preacher, who gave her AIDS.

Guinan also talked about working as the top medical officer for Nevada at a time when Fallon harbored the largest cluster of leukemia ever recorded. Normal for the health department is one case every five years.

"We had 15 cases in a 2½-year period there," she said. The audience gasped.

She had indicated to *LTN* one of her most crowning achievements for Nevada centered on the Clean Indoor Air Act of 2005. The tobacco and casino industries fought hard against it, spending millions of dollars on a campaign against it.

"Nevada has the highest rate of childhood asthma," she said.

After the reading on June 7, those who came out assessed the event as a success. It hit more close to home for some than others.

"She's a fascinating woman with a fascinating life. What she said about how no one knows public health is so true," Pam Young said after the talk. Young, who retired from the Washoe County Public Health Department, came out in support of

Guinan's work with colleague Ellen Marston.

"Her career is amazing," one woman whispered after Guinan wrapped up her talk at Sundance books.

Glass ceiling?

Guinan's journey to public health was varied and unscripted. She shared with the audience stories of how she tried to break down gender barriers by opting for professions not commonly held by women.

First, it was President John F. Kennedy's insistence on reaching the moon that made her dream of being an astronaut some day.

She graduated from college a chemistry major, but few jobs were open to women. "Help wanted" ads back then were divided by men and women. For her college background, she landed in Queens in a gum factory. She was asked to develop a "kissing gum," so her bright idea was to dye the surface sugar pink. The creation turned into a debacle as an explosion of pink sprayed so hard, it turned one of her male colleague's underwear pink.

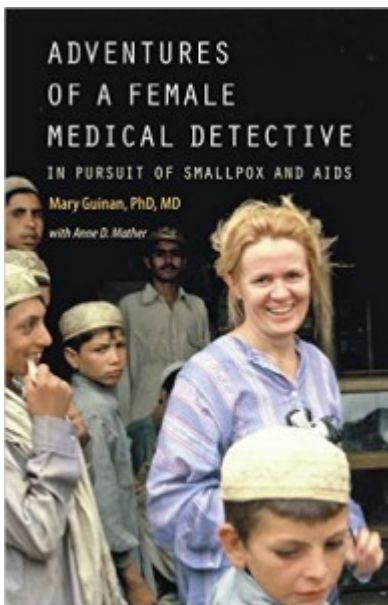
When JFK was killed, she pondered his famous speech: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what can I do for my country." With that, she got a job in the medical branch of the University of Texas in Galveston, where astronauts gathered often and talked about their exotic experiences in space. The fire was lit. She took an aviation course, but ultimately the quest didn't work out. She instead enrolled in a post-doctoral fellowship, consequently attended medical school, and the rest is history.

Of Irish descent, she always remembers her parents dictating that "you could do whatever you want to do" in America.

Still marveling this day at 165 countries in the world

fighting to eliminate small pox, the ambitious New Yorker looked broader than the U.S. for her next quest.

So when the World Health Organization's infectious disease division provided an assignment to eradicate the dreaded disease, she jumped all over the job and onto a plane to India. The assignment that called for quarantining the infected while getting supplies over swollen rivers turned out to be challenging until one day, a man in a big black car said he wanted to help by giving her an elephant to ride over the rivers.



"I wasn't sure what to say," Guinan told the bookstore attendees, who were snickering at the notion.

It worked out, and she kept the elephant for three weeks. Needless to say, her expense reports got a second look when she claimed an elephant driver.

She left India in 1975, and within a year, small pox was no longer a threat.

"It was intoxicating for me to be a part of such as program," she said.

From that point forward, she was hooked on fighting infectious diseases.

She even became known as "Dr. Herpes" when the syndrome was

hitting all the news cycles. She served on a panel discussion in Utah on cold sores, and Dan Rather came on the *CBS News* and gave her the label.

The transition to AIDS was almost seamless. Her detective work was put to the test.

Three years before she left the CDC in 1998, a cocktail of drugs was developed to treat the symptoms.

“It was like a miracle happened,” Guinan told the group.

But the fight over diseases never ends.

The founding dean of UNLV’s school of Community Health Sciences, her most recent concerns go far beyond small towns and the state – and even her country.

“People need to be reminded of how bad it was during the AIDS epidemic and make that association with the Zika virus,” she told *Lake Tahoe News*.

And at her book reading, a few people asked her about the latest disease caused by mosquito bites. Her main concern lies with it being transmitted sexually. Therein lies a perfect storm of events – the virus is rampaging in countries with mass populations and few options of birth control.

The Summer Olympic Games’ host city Rio de Janeiro is in one of the countries.

“It’s a big problem,” Guinan answered one inquiry from the book reading. “(Olympic officials are) telling people to wear long sleeves and wear bug repellent. How effective that’s going to be remains to be seen.

“We have to do our jobs to try to find out people who have visited (these countries) and so they can be tested,” she said. The Zika virus, which is especially potent at causing birth defects, can be harbored for a decade in a carrier.

"It reminds of the AIDS virus," Guinan said of that parallel.

The epidemiologist also fielded a question about the highly controversial issue of some parents refusing to vaccinate their children. Her response to the article in a medical science journal supporting that stance: "The damage is done."

Letter: Questions regarding Meyers hockey academy

Publisher's note: *This letter was sent to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and is reprinted with permission.*

Dear Ms. [Audrey] Jepson,

I received your notice of a public hearing for this project scheduled for June 22. I believe some clarification is required.

The notice contains the same language as before in the last paragraph, indicating that this item is again on the consent agenda, and may be approved without additional discussion.

Which is it? A public hearing or another attempt to pass the project without the discussions many of us have asked for earlier?

I would like to see the following addressed in discussion:

- What is the rationale to use earlier studies and permits issued 20 years ago on a "go forward without any further attention" basis when so much about the proposed project and the local area has changed?
- The hockey academy concept described on the website

www.tahoe hockey academy.com earlier referenced in correspondence is not a “recreational facility” as originally permitted, it is now a high school with nearly a hundred possible students. A school which charges in the range of \$50,000 per year for tuition, room and board. Doesn’t the school have a conflict with the plan area statements which are in place for this area?

- Did the El Dorado County approvals address the school aspect of the project as opposed to recreational facility proposed in the original project?
- The project maps on TRPA’ website are not clear. The basketball courts shown are also shown as overflow parking. I was not able to clearly identify 40 plus other parking places defined on the drawings.
- Has an analysis been done to indicate the impacts on the city ice rink (and the public that also uses it) of an additional nearly 100 possible daily hockey training sessions?
- Have any traffic studies been done to identify emergency ingress/egress alternatives in either fire or avalanche conditions.
- Caltrans is planning a roundabout at 50 and 89 in 2018. This major project will have an affect on the ability to get bus and other traffic onto 50 from the project location.
- Is Tahoe Hockey Academy bus and other traffic planning to use South Upper Truckee Road to Portal to 89 and thence to Highway 50 to avoid the difficult intersection at Highway 50 and South Upper Truckee Road? This would negatively affect about half the residents of Christmas Valley.

Thank you for your attention.

Ed Morrow, Christmas Valley

CHP sobriety checkpoint Friday on South Shore

The Meyers-based California Highway Patrol office will be conducting a sobriety checkpoint on June 10.

The checkpoint will be setting up at approximately 8pm and will be operational at 9pm. The checkpoint will conclude at approximately 2am.

The sobriety checkpoint will be staffed by a team of CHP officers which will be controlling traffic, evaluating driver's sobriety, and hand out literature warning of the dangers of drinking and driving.

The exact location has not been released.

Volunteers sought to build bike trail

TAMBA is looking for people help build the new Kingsbury Stinger Trail.

The trail day is June 11, 9am-3pm.

Meet at 9am at the end of North Benjamin/Andria Drive (Tahoe Rim Trail's Kingsbury North trailhead) in Stateline

The new section of trail about one-half mile from the trailhead. Wear sturdy shoes, long pants and long sleeves, and bring water. Helmets will be required; a bike helmet is fine. Bring a bike to test ride afterward.

Lunch and post work barbecue will be provided.

Letter: Thankful for outdoor education volunteers

To the community,

The students of Lake Tahoe Unified School District and Zephyr Cove Elementary were able to participate in the Outdoor Explore and Children's Forest events thanks to the help of many amazing partners during the past few weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who support these wonderful programs. The Lake Tahoe Education Foundation graciously funds our programs through a grant program and we would not be able to do this without their help.

Students are able to learn more about their environment and connect with nature in new and exciting ways, learn about the ways of the Washoe and founding families, and be introduced to various public lands around Lake Tahoe, thanks to the support of our many South Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition partners and volunteers.

For each of these events, students get to rotate through four different stations and enjoy eating lunch in beautiful locations – Nevada Beach and the Tallac Historic Site.

Our deeply felt thanks go to the U.S. Forest Service, Sugar

Pine Foundation, TRPA, TRCD, League to Save Lake Tahoe, South Tahoe Humane Society, STPUD, TERC, TINS, Tahoe Heritage Foundation and several other amazing volunteers (Alicia, Bonnie, Daryl, Frank, Leslie, Marie and Rick). Thank you for all that you do for our students.

With deep gratitude,

Beth Quandt, science outreach coordinator for Lake Tahoe Unified School District

Calif. leaders working on affordable housing

By Jim Miller, Sacramento Bee

Affordable housing, a back-burner issue at the state Capitol for a decade, has emerged as a central part of talks on a new California budget, with Gov. Jerry Brown, lawmakers and others pressing proposals they want to be part of a final deal.

Brown's revised spending plan, released May 13, includes a Senate proposal to borrow \$2 billion against revenue from the state's mental health services tax on millionaires to subsidize affordable housing projects for people with mental illness.

The Democratic governor also wants to speed up the local land-use approval process for housing projects that include affordable units.

Lawmakers, meanwhile, have introduced measures that would go much further, committing significant general fund money to the problem. The Assembly budget includes \$650 million for various

affordable housing programs, and a \$3 billion affordable housing bond for the November ballot passed the Senate with bipartisan support last week.

Read the whole story

2 accused of defrauding Indian casinos

By Lake Tahoe News

Two men have been indicted on charges of stealing from three Indian casinos, including one in El Dorado County.

“Once the defendants fraudulently obtained the identification documents for their false identities, the defendants used the identification documents and false identities to open bank accounts, obtain credit, and create the perception of credit worthiness in their false identities,” the federal indictment reads.

Vivian Wang, 53, of Lilburn, Georgia, and Frank Luo, 48, of Las Vegas are accused of wire fraud. Wang also face an aggravated identity theft charge.

The two are accused of defrauding Red Hawk, Thunder Valley and Cache Creek casinos from August 2008 to August 2014.

The U.S. Attorneys Office claims the duo stole \$1.2 million from the casinos by using false IDs and Social Security numbers to apply for casino credit, or markers. A marker is a cash advance provided by a casino to a patron, and it is often secured by a check from the patron’s bank account.

The defendants initially repaid the markers and several credit cards to give the impression of creditworthiness. They even intentionally lost money to gain credit.

Eventually the defendants depleted and closed the bank accounts provided to the casinos in their marker applications to prevent the casinos from recovering the money secured by the checks they had written against those accounts, and they did not pay back the credit card balances.

The two used the money to buy jewelry, precious metals, home appliances, international flights, luxury goods and clothing, according to court records.

If convicted, Wang and Luo face 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of wire fraud. If convicted of aggravated identity theft, Wang faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 24 months in prison consecutive to any other sentence imposed.