

Reliving Ali's fight at Stateline

By Steve Sneddon, Reno Gazette-Journal

Muhammad Ali fought professionally in Northern Nevada only once, on Nov. 21, 1972, at the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel (now Hard Rock) in Stateline. Ali won the match via an eighth-round knockout of Bob Foster. The Reno Evening Gazette's Steve Sneddon covered the match and wrote about Ali in his column, "From My Corner." Ali died June 3 at the age of 74.

The guy that wears the white shoes did his thing.

No, Pat Boone wasn't in the area.

We're talking about "the guy" – Muhammad Ali.

Maybe Boone discovered white shoes but Ali has shown everyone what they can do.

The Ali footwork that the fans saw at the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel was the pre-1967 variety.

Read the whole story

EDC budget not what supervisors asked for

By Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County's proposed budget that was released this week has zero dollars from the General Fund for roads and no money

to build the public safety building for the sheriff's department.

This, in essence, was Larry Combs' parting gift to the county – a budget that does not reflect what the supervisors or department heads wanted. Combs was shown the door last week after nearly a year with the county. He worked part time while living in Auburn.

Now the five supervisors who supported Combs for much of his limited tenure are left to pick up the pieces. Helping them will be Don Ashton whom they hired last week to be the permanent chief administrative officer.

Following a presentation by Laura Schwartz, Chief Budget Officer, the Board provided a prioritized list of unfunded items and directed the Chief Administrative Office to return to the Board with additional details pertaining to those items at the Board's annual Budget Workshop beginning June 6, 2016. The list of prioritized items is as follows (Refer to Attachment A):

\$5,000,000 for Public Safety Facility Debt, Capital Replacement Fund and the Juvenile Hall Match (combined)
\$2,500,000 Roads
\$352,000 Property Tax System
\$150,000 Public Information Officer
\$250,000 Tree Mortality Grant
\$500,000 Marijuana Enforcement
\$100,000 Community Planning Effort
\$320,000 Depot Road Land Acquisition
\$225,000 Southeast Connector
\$25,000 City of Placerville Pool (added)
\$20,000 Fish and Game Commission (added)
\$2,500 Commission on Aging (added)

Supervisors Mikulaco, Veerkamp, Ranalli and Novasel were in favor of the above prioritization list with no exceptions.

Supervisor Frentzen supported all items shown with the following exceptions (not in favor of prioritizing): Public Information Officer, Depot Road Land Acquisition, Southeast Connector and City of Placerville Pool. Supervisor Frentzen also requested a list of services the county provides on Federal lands (pertaining to Payment In-Lieu of Taxes or PILT). Referring to a list of \$10,000,000 worth of contracts that do not come to the Board for approval (those contracts that are under the Purchasing Agent's signature authority), requests the CAO return with analysis of how these contracts are approved and identify any savings therein. Further requested information regarding salary savings achieved from improved efficiencies.

There was no formal vote, only general direction to staff.

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Source: *April 26, 2016, EDC BOS minutes*

"As you know, this is the first step in the annual budget process and between now and September the county will need to make some difficult decisions. During this period, the CAO's

office will be presenting the board with options and impacts relative to operating budgets and capital projects, including roads and the public safety facility," Ashton told *Lake Tahoe News*.

What those recommendations will be Ashton did not share with *LTN*.

One of the bugaboos with the sheriff's facility is that to qualify for the grant funding the county must show it has a balanced budget for the next five years. El Dorado County is forecasting a deficit in the coming years.

Neither Ashton nor Supervisor Sue Novasel could answer what this means for the public safety facility.

Technically the county is supposed to approve the budget this month before the start of the next fiscal year on July 1. Per standard operating procedure, adjustments are made through September. Normally planning for the next budget year then commences. That did not occur under Combs' watch. That is part of the reason the county is scrambling to come up with a coherent budget for 2016-17.

It was Pamela Knorr, human resources director, who brought in her friend Combs to be interim CAO. She has been working remotely in Texas where her husband has a job. This is something Combs allowed, but is unusual for any department head, especially one dealing with all employees on a personal level. She recently put her house on the market, signaling she may have seen the writing on the wall now that she does not have a friend as her boss to protect her.

As for the budget, it could still look very different than this first iteration. This document that was released to the public on June 1 was sent to the printer the morning after Combs left the county.

"The proposed budget you are referring to is the CAO's budget

recommendations – and just that – recommendations,” Novasel told *Lake Tahoe News*. “The BOS has not reviewed nor had a chance to talk about the budget – the budget talks will begin on June 13. At that time, the board will begin a review of the recommendations and start to make changes, revisions, and additions that they feel are necessary. I am going to be asking that we look at adding a PIO position along with including additional funding from the General Fund for road maintenance.”

Asked what she would cut to fund the items she wants, Novasel said, “That is something that we will all be looking at – how much money does the county really have to pay for things that we, as a county, feel are most needed. We will be looking at our Strategic Plan as a basis for making those decisions. Of course, we don’t want to make cuts – but we also need to make sure that all programs and processes are in line with our Strategic Plan and the priorities contained within it.”

The budget hearing is June 13 in Placerville, a week later than previously planned – which was decided under the Combs’ regime, though the supervisors unanimously agreed to this on May 17.

This means the budget hearings are after the June 7 primary, when they were supposed to be before the election.

Opinion: Media’s prediction addiction is anti-democratic

By Andres Martinez

Many journalists are confessing that they really blew with a

series of poor predictions – dismissing Trump, calling for an early Clinton coronation, anticipating a contested GOP convention – instead of apologizing for their real sin: the compulsive haste to predict everything in the first place.

People have long harrumphed about how polls dominate election coverage at the expense of substantive reporting of policy proposals. What is new is the extent to which the media's obsession with predicting electoral outcomes in advance has seeped into the candidates' own discourse on the campaign trail.

It's as if sideline analysis has become the game itself.

Trump is the caricature extreme of this trend, giving campaign speeches that consist largely of spinning poll numbers and critiquing the media coverage of the campaign. But Trump isn't alone. To an extent previously unimaginable, all candidates this election cycle have spent a fair amount of time discussing polls. Even when they didn't want to talk polls, they were often forced to do so by the media, which promote their own surveys and fetishize polling data –“Why are you running given such low poll numbers?”

This was the tenor of the campaign coverage even before the first votes were cast in Iowa. Such is the anti-democratic hubris of media elites: Why wait to let people make their choice on election day when we smart media folks can tell you the results in advance, and tell you why you and your neighbors voted the way you did?

These apologies are more disturbing than the mistaken predictions. The apologizers genuinely seem to think their inability to predict this primary season accurately was a blow to the republic –as opposed to their insistence on allowing their prediction addiction to drive, and distort, most election coverage.

Society's intolerance of uncertainty (the media are playing to

its audience, after all) and our mania for perfecting forecasting expands well beyond political reporting and analysis. Meteorology, the science we first think of when we think of “forecasting,” is a pursuit where less uncertainty is a societal good. You want to warn people to abandon the coastline if an epic hurricane is heading their way. Blown climate predictions do deserve mea culpas— and there’s no positive interest in waiting to see where the hurricane will land, and withholding judgment.

The financial world, on the other hand, is an arena long ago perverted by data-driven forecasting. When you invest your savings in a publicly traded company these days, you’re not making a bet on how that company will perform objectively in the long run. You are betting on how its performance in quarterly short-terms will compare with the forecasts drawn up by Wall Street analysts. It’s not enough to await a company’s results; what matters is how those results conform, or don’t, to the earnings estimates (or “expectations”) imposed on it by outside data crunchers. For instance, in April, Wall Street threw a collective hissy fit when Apple “missed” expectations set by outside forecasters by reporting \$50.56 billion instead of \$51.97 billion in quarterly revenue. The company’s stock was taken down 8 percent in a day.

For companies trading on the stock market, the tyranny of managing a business to meet the quarterly earnings expectations of outside forecasters end up stifling innovation and risk-taking. It’s the financial equivalent of campaigning on your poll numbers instead of setting your own agenda.

Perhaps the world of political analysis should look to the world of sports for a healthier model of how to blend forecasting with substantive analysis, without allowing the former to overwhelm the latter. Sports journalists and fans love making predictions, and devote a great deal of airtime and print (not to mention fantasy league energy) to picking scores and predicting individual performances. But, maybe

because it's still a game in the end, there is more allowance made for the notion that ironclad certitude is elusive, undesirable even. Studio broadcast analysts keep track of the accuracy of their predictions and good-naturedly compete and tease each other over them. But failed predictions don't trigger weighty mea culpas about how media let society down[SC1] .

The longest shot ever recorded by odds makers happened in the world of soccer last month, when tiny, impoverished and perennially struggling FC Leicester won the English Premier League, despite 5,000-to-1 odds. The story was a feel-good global phenomenon. The political media-operative complex should take note. Smart analysis can help explain how Leicester pulled off its championship, without having predicted it in advance. Some uncertainty is inevitable in life, at least until the games are played, and the votes are cast. And that's OK.

Andrés Martinez writes the Trade Winds column for Zócalo Public Square, where he is editorial director. He is also professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University and a fellow at New America.

Fire burning in EDC wine country

By KCRA-TV

Firefighters made good progress against a wildfire Friday night burning near Placerville in El Dorado County, Cal Fire said.

The Aukum Fire, which was initially reported to be 45 acres, has burned 25 acres near Mount Aukum and Grizzly Flat roads, CalFire said.

Read the whole story

Study: Public pools routinely fail safety inspections

By Karen Kaplan, Los Angeles Times

Summer's right around the corner, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are here to remind you that there's nothing like a dip in a public pool – a place where you might encounter tiny bits of fecal matter, parasites like *Cryptosporidium* and volatile chemicals that can irritate your eyes or respiratory tract.

A report published Thursday warns that nearly 8 in 10 routine inspections of public pools turned up at least one violation of safety rules. In addition, about 1 in 8 of these inspections found problems so serious that the pool had to be closed immediately.

These disheartening statistics are based on 84,187 routine inspections of 48,632 public pools and other “aquatic venues” in Arizona, California, Florida, New York and Texas.

Read the whole story

Letter: Hockey school doesn't belong in Meyers

To the community,

I must rebut what is being portrayed as “negative” and “uninformed” residents. The **Lake Tahoe News** article about the Meyers hockey academy states, “When the notice about the project went out to neighbors this month...” The fact is we received absolutely no notice, which is why we are uninformed. The proposal just happened to be seen by someone that regularly watches the TRPA agenda, only a few days in advance of the hearing.

Our neighborhood falls just outside the Meyers Area Plan of January 2014. The proposed project is only about 1,500 feet away and is approximately 100 feet higher in elevation from the residential uses in Tahoe Par 60. The project is close enough to have direct impacts, yet the developer and TRPA did not provide due notice.

JJ (the developer) mentions in his comment that he did his research. The community would not be so objectionable if the proponents did not fly under the radar as they did. It was quietly approved by the Board of Supervisors in Placerville using old permits, then placed on the consent calendar of the TRPA to be heard on the North Shore. Paul Nielsen, planner with TRPA, stated, “It’s on the consent calendar because until recently there was no known concerns about the project.” This certainly does not portray transparency nor community interest.

The main concerns are A) the lack of proper notice; B) the traffic impacts to residents that already cannot get onto Highway 50 during peak traffic to conduct daily life; C) the noise level and light emissions from an outdoor facility; and

D) non-conforming use. These directly impact our quiet lifestyle chosen by the residents out here. To be part of a community, one must include the community.

Further, TRPA's staff summary states, "the proposed project is a recreational group facility which is a permissible use in Plan Area Statement 136. There are no classrooms proposed as part of this project." Yet in this article and many other news and online forums show the project is a school, such as the following quotes. "We are looking at initiation on the upper dorm as early as June and the first academic year starting in August" and "The academy will follow the school year – August to May. Then the facility will operate summer camps for groups of 20 to 25 kids," Dill said. "Basically it's a prep school and prep academy to get them academically ready for college and physically ready to play Division 1 hockey."

It sure sounds like a school to me. Therefore the project is not consistent with the adopted Plan Area Statements for Plans 136 and 137.

It seems the residents in Christmas Valley are again ignored by the decision-makers. The only time we are valued is when we have to pay our share of something.

Jeffrey Spencer, Meyers

Wagon train to make stop on South Shore

The annual wagon trail will roll through the South Shore on this weekend.

Now its 67th year, the re-creation of the wagons what went west to Placerville during the Gold Rush will stop at MontBleu in Stateline on Saturday.

On Sunday the procession will continue to Placerville, leaving the South Shore in the late morning.

Study: Trees, other foliage growing despite drought

By Matt Stevens, Los Angeles Times

Over the past year, scientists have studied California's trees from the air, the ground and even using X-ray technology.

Each time, they have arrived at some version of a similar dreary conclusion: The state's ongoing drought is wreaking havoc on forests, killing millions more trees at each check.

But a study published recently online in the Open Journal of Forestry offered a refreshing and counterintuitive piece of good news. A NASA research scientist found the drought did not stop trees, shrubs and other foliage from regenerating in areas ravaged by wildfires.

Read the whole story

Sawmill Pond stocked for fishing derby

The South Lake Tahoe Rotary Club also donated \$3,000 to stock fish in Sawmill Pond in time for the annual Optimists Kids Fishing Derby that will be June 4 from 8am-noon.

The derby is to teach children to fish, and it is open to all youth 14 and under.

On June 2, members of the South Lake Tahoe Rotary in support of the Optimist Club met at Sawmill Pond to do cleanup and staining of Rotary benches that were installed by members over the years.

This Sawmill Pond Project has been one that the South Lake Tahoe Rotary Club has supported annually under the leadership of Rotary Past President David Huber and in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Mass of STMS students on bikes



For each of the three days of the Tahoe Bike Challenge, South Tahoe Middle had and awesome participation.

The first day we had 85 students participate, the second day we had 100 kids and today we had over 150 kids participating.

Perfect weather for an amazing three days of fun and fitness.

There were different meeting places throughout the South Shore where staff members met groups of kids and rode with them to school. All of the students who rode their bikes to school were given raffle tickets, with 15 names being drawn each day for prizes like: Amgen Tour of California shirts and hats, bike reflectors, bike bells, bike lights, gift bags and more.

– Judy Klingler, South Tahoe Middle School