Reno High grad shot in Arizona improving

By Martha Bellisle, Reno Gazette-Journal

A Reno High School graduate who, along with his wife, was shot last weekend at a Tucson political event was upgraded from serious to fair condition, but is still in a lot of pain, a friend said Thursday.

George and Dorothy “Dot” Morris had moved from Reno to a town just north of Tucson in the mid 1990s and were attending an event hosted by U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., when a gunman opened fire on the crowd.

A total of 20 people were shot, six fatally, including Dot Morris. Giffords remains in critical condition, but is showing promising improvements, after being shot in the head.

George Morris tried to shield his wife, said their friend, Bill Royle, but she did not survive the attack. George Morris was shot twice – once to the chest and once in the leg, Royle said.

“He tried to save Dot, he tried to protect her, but it was too late,” Royle said. “He knows Dot is gone.”

On Sunday, George Morris was in serious condition at University Medical Center in Tucson, but hospital spokeswoman Loretta McKenzie said Thursday that he’s now listed in fair condition.

Read the whole story

Nevada tops among energy stimulus spenders

By Jeff Delong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada ranks No. 1 in spending of federal stimulus dollars for energy efficiency projects, the National Association of State Energy officials announced.

The state spent 91 percent of the more than $9.5 million in energy efficiency and conservation grants awarded to it in 2009 as part of the federal stimulus program, officials said. Kentucky ranks No. 2, with 59 percent spent, with the national average at only 18 percent.

“It’s exciting that Nevada leads the nation in this effort,” said Stacy Crowley, director of the Nevada State Office of Energy.

The money, largely allocated to cities and counties, has gone to projects to help drivers at Lake Tahoe see street signs better in the dark and lit fields for softball players in Winnemucca.

Read the whole story

Doctor turning to comedy

Oddie Hester, formally Dr. Joshua Welch, will have his comedy career break out Jan. 15 at 4pm in South Lake Tahoe.

This free show is acceptable for the whole family. He believes laughter is the best medicine.



Josh Welch

Please call for a reservation – (530) 544.1600

The performance is inside Lakeview Plaza next to Freshies.

DCSO looking for search and rescue members

The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue Team is accepting applications.

DCSAR consists of approximately 30 members who volunteer their time and efforts responding to public emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In the past 12 months, DCSAR has responded to numerous public service emergencies, including searching for lost or stranded skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, ATV or motorcycle riders, horseback riders, four-wheel drivers, river rafters and assisting with downed aircraft incidents.

Interested applicants must be in good physical condition, demonstrate a cooperative team effort and have a goal-oriented disposition. Prior rescue and medical experience is not required.

Applicants will be screened via an oral interview, and a

thorough background check will be conducted by the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office. Once accepted, initial training will be provided through a SAR Academy that begins March 28. Instruction will be provided on the following topics:

First Aid, CPR, Basic Search & Rescue Operations, Personal Survival, Tracking, Snowshoeing, Rescue Vehicle Operation, River Rafting, Water Rescue, Radio Procedure, Introduction to Incident Command, Map Reading and Orientation, GPS and Compass

Members who successfully complete the academy will then participate on actual Search and Rescue missions with experienced team members for a six-month training period before becoming a full member.

If you have time to dedicate to assisting the Douglas County and surrounding communities during times of man-made or natural disaster, and aiding citizens in need of rescue or assistance in the backcountry, mountains, trails and waterways, then the Douglas County Sheriff’s Search and Rescue Team may be for you.

Details of the academy, including applications, can be obtained online or by calling DCSAR Training Coordinator John Soderman at (775) 720.6260. Interested parties must submit application by Feb. 15.

Ski report: No crowds on the slopes



The week before a long weekend is always a good time to be on the slopes.

Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Tickets on sale for father-daughter dance at Harveys

Father-Daughter Sweetheart Dance sponsored by Harrah's-Harvey is Feb. 11 from 7-9:30pm at Harveys.

Be the coolest dad in town and dance the night away with your daughter. Refreshments will be served and a photo keepsake is available for an additional fee.

Tickets are $20, and $8 per additional daughter.

The event often sells out. Call (775) 586.7271 for tickets.

Mt. Rose providing higher level of medical care on

slopes

Mt. Rose ski resort is providing paramedic advanced life support through a cooperative agreement between the Regional Emergency Medical Service Authority and North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

Advanced Life Support (ALS) allows paramedics who work as ski patrollers to perform advanced skills and procedures on patients who normally could only have been done by paramedics on an ambulance or medical helicopter.

ALS involves the use of invasive and non-invasive procedures such as cardiac monitoring, pacing and defibrillation, pain management, advanced airway management for respiratory emergencies, intravenous access and the ability to administer numerous emergency medications prior to the arrival of ground or air medical transport. These skills and procedures can prove to be the difference in the survival of critically injured or sick guests and many can be done while the skier is still on the ski slopes.

The Mt. Rose ALS service is not available at any other ski resort in the Sierra.

Nevada tourism agency trying to brand the state

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Sun

How do you capture the essence of Nevada in a brand?

That’s a task the Nevada Tourism Commission will assign to a

brand development vendor when it drafts a request for proposals over the next couple of months.

The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority has gone though the same process in developing what arguably is the most successful destination branding scheme ever conceived. Love it or hate it, “What happens here, stays here” is uniquely Las Vegas and the ad campaign that accompanied the effort to brand the city as a place to engage in adult freedom is something that people have talked about, mimicked, ripped off and recycled for years.

Although “What happens here, stays here” used humor to project Las Vegas as a fun place, the challenge may be greater for branding Nevada.

The state’s diverse landscape – one of the things we cherish about Nevada and what sets us apart from our 49 sibling states – is difficult to put in a one-size-fits-all box.

To some, Nevada is a vast desert wasteland. To others, it’s a rugged snow-packed mountain wilderness. It’s outdoor adventure and indoor entertainment, gaming palaces and ghost towns. It’s canyons and caves, dry desert lakes and clear mountain streams. And, it’s for backpackers, RVers, ATVers, PWCers, zip liners, rock climbers and NASCAR driver wannabes.

Read the whole story

Beer & Food Fest at Truckee restaurant

Dragonfly’s first Beer & Food Festival is slated for Jan. 27

from 6 to 9pm at the Truckee restaurant.

Attendees may stop in anytime during the evening and roam the food and beer stations, tasting menu items paired with six Mammoth Brewing Company specialty beers.

Advanced tickets are on sale now for $28 per person, which provides access to this interactive beer and food tasting event.

While tasting the malts, smelling the hops and sampling the Dragonfly eats, Beer & Food Fest participants can also meet Mammoth Brewing Company brew master Sean Turner, enjoy live music and enter a raffle to win free growlers.

Tickets are available at Dragonfly; advanced ticket purchase is recommended as these types of events often sell out. For tickets or more info, call (530) 587.0557.

Dragonfly is located upstairs at 10118 Donner Pass Road, right in the heart of downtown Truckee.

Opinion: Tips for personal financial resolutions

By Lou Scatigna

When the big ball dropped at midnight New Year’s Eve, the calendar changed, but will you?

After two years of recession and recovery that is moving slower than molasses going uphill in January, I believe 2011 is the time for people to make some solid resolutions to change those old habits.

Most people think that their financial problems revolve around not earning enough money to make ends meet. The truth is, everyone can improve their financial health by using the following five tips, and they don't have to make a dime more than they are making today in order to feel more financially healthy.

Here are some tips:

* Calculate Your Net Worth – If you want to get healthy, you need a check up. Your net worth tells you how financially healthy you are right now, so you know where you're starting. Here's how you do it: Take a piece of paper and make two columns. On the left side of the paper list the value of all your assets and on the right side the balances of all your loans, using the totals from the end of 2009. Now, subtract your total debts from the total value of your assets and you arrive at your net worth, the exact amount of money you would have if you liquidated all your assets and paid off all your debts. The goal is to grow your net worth each and every year.

* Prepare a Budget – Take another piece of paper, and make two columns, one for monthly expenses and one for annual expenses. On top of the page list all your sources of income – wages, interest, dividends, odd jobs, etc. Total up all your income. Now list every expense in your life as accurately as you can. Make sure you keep track of your cash expenditures, like those Starbucks coffees and lunches at work. Spend one month writing down every penny you spend. Now, total up all your expenses, and then subtract your expenses from your income. If you're in the hole, it's time to reduce your spending. If you're ahead, now you have an idea of how much you might be able to put away and save every month. The truth is that most families can cut 5 to 10 percent of their monthly expenses without too much trouble.

* Manage the Money Together – If you're married, it's imperative that you manage the money as a couple. In most

families either the husband or the wife handle the monthly bills, but that often leads to miscommunication and overspending. Sit down together and pay the bills and discuss with each other how you can reduce the household expenses. Review bills for accuracy and resolve to pay down the balances as fast as possible. Review each investment account statement for performance and risk. Doing it together ensures fewer crises and more savings.

* Learn More About Money – The majority of Americans have little knowledge about finances, so they make costly mistakes. There are many books and websites that you can read to learn the basics about investing, buying cars and homes, insurance, the different types of mortgages, and credit cards. Knowledge is power, especially when it comes to your money.

* Be Financially Responsible – What do you really need? What do you really want? These days, it's difficult to have both, so we each need to evaluate our lives to determine what we can do without. Do you need to buy lunch at work every day, or does your break room have a kitchen where you could keep a loaf of bread and lunchmeat? Do we need 20 HBO channels, when there's never anything good on, anyway? We now live in frugal times and must adjust our behavior in order to survive and become financially healthy.

Louis Scatigna is a certified financial planner, national radio talk show host and author of "The Financial Physician: How To Cure Your Money Problems and Boost Your Financial Health".