El Dorado sheriff’s candidates sharpen focus for November

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

The El Dorado County sheriff’s election runoff between John D’Agostini and Craig Therkildsen will offer much clearer alternatives than the primary.

With a half-dozen candidates and a welter of issues – gangs, budgets, concealed weapons, patrol strategies and more – primary voters needed a spreadsheet to keep things straight.

D’Agostini and Therkildsen, however, offer distinct – if not opposing – visions in the runoff.

Read the whole story

Rhoden v. Romo at American Century

By Jeff Frank, Sports Network

STATELINE – Eight-time American Century Celebrity Championship winner Rick Rhoden looks to become the first golfer to win three straight titles when he hits the links from July 16-18 in Stateline.

Rhoden, who barely defeated Dan Quinn in ’08 by one point, came right back to dominate a field of 90 golfers last year,

winning by three as the 9-5 favorite. Tony Romo finished second at 3-1 odds, while Quinn hit the board once again, tying Billy Joe Tolliver for third place. Both Quinn and Tolliver went off at 5-1.

This year, Rhoden remains the 9-5 favorite, but Romo has inched slightly closer at 5-2. The Dallas quarterback, playing for just the fourth time in this tournament, has improved each and every season.



Rick Rhoden

Read the whole story

Nevada to resume annual tourism conference

Gov. Jim Gibbons and Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki are resurrecting the Nevada Commission on Tourism's Governor's Conference on Tourism after a two-year hiatus.

"It was a difficult decision to put the conference on hold, but the economy and strained budgets required NCOT to do so," Krolicki, NCOT chair, said in a statement. "The conference has become a staple of learning and networking for Nevada's tourism industry, and it's with great pleasure we can resume this valuable program."

The conference will be at the Peppermill Resort Casino in Reno Dec. 7-8. It will focus heavily on analyzing current travel trends in order to understand economically induced changes to who is traveling, how they're traveling and how to reach them. The registration fee will also be significantly reduced from previous years to reflect the shorter, yet high-caliber schedule.

The 2010 Governor's Conference on Tourism is partnering with UNR, which is having a conference Dec. 8-10 on social media marketing. The Reynold's School of Journalism, College of Business and Extended Studies program are hosting the SM@RT conference (Social Media at Reno-Tahoe) and will help develop and promote the Governor's Conference on Tourism.

For more information on the Governor's Conference on Tourism, visit www.TravelNevada.biz.

Benefit performance of 'Footloose' at LTCC

On June 18 there will be a special benefit performance of "Footloose" at Lake Tahoe Community College.

It will be a fundraiser supporting the purchase of a grand piano for the music department.

Tickets are $20 per person and guests will enjoy food and beverages before the show beginning at 7:30pm. The performance begins at 8pm.

Comment period open on Lake Tahoe bike-pedestrian plan

The Draft 2010 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is available for public review by clicking here.

The public comment period ends July 26. Comments may be sent to: Karen Fink, P.O. Box 5310, Stateline, NV 89449 or email to kfink@trpa.org.

The 2010 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is an update to the 2003 Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The BPP is a guide for planning, constructing, and maintaining a regional bicycle and pedestrian system. The BPP includes maps and prioritized project lists for the bicycle and pedestrian network, and lays out policies for local governing bodies and transportation agencies. The BPP serves as the Bicycle and Pedestrian element to both the Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO) Regional Transportation Plan (Mobility 2030) and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Transportation Plan.

Major new elements of the 2010 BPP include updates to Maps, Project Lists, and Goals and Policies. There are new sections on “Benefits of Bicycling and Walking” and “Maintenance.” All other sections have been updated to reflect current conditions.

Copies of the Draft Lake Tahoe Region Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan are available at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, the Placer County Public Library in Tahoe City, the Washoe County Public Library in Incline Village, the North Tahoe Conference Center, the El Dorado County Public Library in South Lake Tahoe, and the Douglas County Public Library in Zephyr Cove.

Digging for Washoe artifacts delays Sawmill bike path

By Kathryn Reed

Cultural resources belonging to the Washoe Indians have delayed construction of the extension of the Sawmill Bike Trail for at least one year.

The Washoe summered in Lake Tahoe and fished in the Upper Truckee River. Their presence is throughout the South Shore.



Completion of the Sawmill Bike Trail is at least two years away. Photos/Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County officials, the ones behind the trail project, are involving the Washoe in every step. They have met at the site and other places to ensure everyone's interests are addressed.

The people that make the rules don't seem to care this area has been disturbed for years, that cars drive on it every day

and snowplows regularly traverse it.

Nor do the feds care the soil is compacted and much of the area covered in asphalt. Cultural deposits will be sought about 1-foot deep.

In the odd way projects get funding, not every holder of the checkbook would have required the level of research currently being undertaken. Because it’s federal dollars funding the bulk of the project the National Environmental Policy Act must be followed. This means looking for sensitive cultural resources.

Completion of the NEPA study is also required to obtain some of the rights-of-way. Easements from California State Parks, California Tahoe Conservancy, U.S. Forest Service and private landowners will need to be secured.

“We hope to have a draft work plan to Caltrans (this) week. Then we can conduct the field work,” said Brendan Ferry, senior planner with the county’s Department of Transportation. “If something is found, it’s a whole other story. If there’s a burial ground, it’s a major issue. Hopefully, nothing is found.”

If California’s financial situation weren’t so bleak, the California Tahoe Conservancy would have paid for the two miles of trail. But the CTC’s cash flow is at a trickle and had to give up on this project.

The county is getting Federal Highway Administration money that is being passed through to Caltrans and then to the county. Caltrans is pulling cash from its Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality fund.



Cyclists currently must share the shoulderless Sawmill Road with cars.

The project, which was supposed to be done this summer, could start next summer. It will be broken into two phases. The first will go from Lake Tahoe Boulevard to Echo View Estates. The second goes from Echo View to Highway 50 to connect with the bike trail bridge that was completed last summer.

“We really want to get this project built for the community. It will be nice when we can link Meyers to the Y,” Ferry said.

The project could cost close to $3 million.

Connecting the Class 1 trail to the bridge will be an engineering feat because of the wetlands in the area and the stilt house on the corner of Sawmill Road and Highway 50.

“We will need to build a retaining wall. We can do it, but it will be expensive,” Ferry said.

He said at one time the CTC was looking at buying the corner lot. That would have made securing easements easier and possibly allowed for a different design.



A road bike rider turned from Sawmill Road onto the bridge headed toward Meyers.

“It is 8-feet-wide with shoulders, fences, drainage, culverts, rock-lined channels. The design is fairly detailed. We have the design basically done,” Ferry said. “We were ready to build it this year. We are just running into paperwork issues.”

Ferry said by late August or early September a decision should be made about starting the trail in summer 2011.

Maritime museum docent training

Do you have a few hours a week or even a few day to spare during the summer months? Do you enjoy meeting new people and sharing information about Tahoe? Do children bring a smile to your face?

If you answered yes to at least one of the questions above, mark your calendar for July 2 at 5pm for volunteer and docent training at the Tahoe Maritime Museum in Homewood.

If you are unable to attend the training, but would still like to be involved,contact Smitty or Heather to find out ways you can help out by emailing info@TahoeMaritime.org.

Workshop for school board candidates

The El Dorado County School Boards Association and the El Dorado County Office of Education will conduct a workshop for prospective school board members on June 30 at the El Dorado County Office of Education. Registration is at 4:30pm, with the workshop taking place from 5-6:30pm.

The purpose of this workshop is to inform prospective school board members of the duties and responsibilities of school board members.

According to Vicki Barber, El Dorado County superintendent of schools, local board members and superintendents from various school districts will discuss topics such as time commitment, the Brown Act, policy development, budget responsibilities, and the general role that school boards have in public education today.

The election filing dates are between July 12 and Aug. 6.

There is no charge to attend this workshop. Contact Janet Maruniak at (530)295.2217 or email jmaruniak@edcoe.org, by June 25 to register for the workshop.

Soroptimist reward young readers

Awards were presented to students at Zephyr Cove Elementary School this month to acknowledge their efforts and achievement in reading.

Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra rewarded recipients at an end of the year awards assembly by highlighting each child’s favorite book and also sharing endorsements by teachers. Each child was presented with gift cards to purchase books and new novels were donated to the school Library in honor of Hannia Lucero-Castro, Luke Borchers, Diane Clavel and Angelica Acosta-Das.



Zephyr Cove students excel in reading. Photo/Provided

Soroptimist meeting

Soroptimist International of Tahoe Sierra breakfast meeting on June 17 at 7:30am at the Lake Tahoe Senior Center in South Lake Tahoe features South Tahoe High School counselor Amy

Jackson and her A Team.