Attorney: Garrido heard voices

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

Phillip Garrido's attorney may be laying the groundwork for a mental health defense in his kidnapping-rape trial, citing "signs of serious mental illness" and saying he has "been hearing the voices of angels for years."

The statements, contained in filings made late today by public defender Susan Gellman, come in advance of Friday's hearing over whether Garrido can have contact with his wife, Nancy, in the El Dorado County Jail to prepare their defense and discuss family matters.

Read the whole story

Freeskier Johnson dies at Squaw Valley

By Jason Kobely, News 10

SQUAW VALLEY – Skier C.R. Johnson, a U.S. Open champion and X Games medalist recognized as a halfpipe specialist and one of freeskiing's most renowned competitors, was killed Wednesday while skiing at Squaw Valley, according to resort officials.

Johnson, a 26-year-old Truckee native, was skiing the Light Towers section of the resort's famed Headwall Wednesday afternoon.



C.R.
Johnson

Read the whole story

St. Theresa students demonstrating random acts of kindness

St. Theresa School students on Tuesday were given the challenge to document more than 5,000 random acts of kindness in two weeks.

They are competing with other schools to see who can document the most random acts of kindness.

Motivational speaker Brian Williams was at the South Lake Tahoe school this week telling the students how they can incorporate kindness into their daily lives and future careers.



St. Theresa

students ready to do random acts of kindness. Photo/Provided

In addition to documenting acts of kindness, St. Theresa students will be taking on the Soles4Souls Mission, a nonprofit organization that has given away more than 5.5 million pairs of shoes around the globe, including Kenya, Nepal, India and the United States.

Students have been challenged to â€œChange the World from the feet upâ€. Each student at STS has been challenged to Donate-a-chore in the following amounts: $5, $10 and $20. It is up to each family to decide which chore is worth the value the student donates. For every $5 donated, Soles4Soles will send two new pairs of shoes to the victims in Haiti.

The goal is simple: To inspire and teach children how they can change the world through everyday acts of kindness. Williams is also a martial arts expert. He told the students for every $100 raised he will break a brick. His goal is to break 10 bricks. He has never been done this.

‘Laramie Project’ at LTCC

â€œThe Laramie Projectâ€ is a docu-drama about the 1998 hate-crime murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student who was brutally beaten by two young men, tied to a fence, and left to die.

It will be performed at Lake Tahoe Community Collegeâ€™s Duke Theatre in South Lake Tahoe.

Writer-director MoisÃ©s Kaufman and actors of New Yorkâ€™s Tectonic Theatre Project journeyed to Laramie to interview townspeople about the horrific murder. After 400 hours of interviews, what emerges is an unusual and powerful theater piece focusing on the citizens of Laramie, how they were affected and ultimately changed by this act of brutality within their community.

Mature themes and content â€“ may not be suitable for children under 15.

Lien put on Garridos' Bay Area property

By John Simerman, Contra Costa Times

Contra Costa County will slap a $24,000 lien on the property near Antioch where Phillip and Nancy Garrido kept Jaycee Dugard in sexual bondage for years, after a cleanup last year of mounds of trash, hazardous wiring, junk cars, dilapidated structures and an open septic hole in the yard.

The cleanup followed three separate law enforcement searches of the property on Walnut Avenue after authorities learned that Jaycee Dugard and her two daughters, fathered by Phillip Garrido, had been living for years in a hidden compound of tents, sheds and outbuildings, never seeing a doctor or enrolling in school.

The lien, which the Board of Supervisors approved Tuesday, adds to a growing public debt on the property where authorities say the Garridos held Dugard since they abducted her in 1991 at age 11 on her street in South Lake Tahoe.

Read the whole story

Occupants escape South Tahoe structure fire

Two people and their pets escaped injury Tuesday afternoon when a fire broke out at their South Lake Tahoe residence.

When Lake Valley firefighters arrived at 1406 Black Bart Ave. they saw light smoke coming from the roof.

Firefighters quickly determined there was a fire in the chimney chase that connected to a large attic, and were able to extinguish it before it spread to the surrounding structures or wildland. The cause is being labeled accidental.

Crews were at the house this morning in the snow mopping up after the 4:12pm fire.

Leona Allen, spokeswoman for the department, told *Lake Tahoe News* the fire started in the older section of the 5,000-square-foot house that had been remodeled.

An estimate of the cost of damages is not known. It will likely be up to the insurance company to determine whether the structure is salvageable.

Lake Tahoe ski report, Feb. 24



Wind could be the issue on this powder day. Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

LTCC's 'Laramie Project' protest in the works

By Kathryn Reed

Lake Tahoe Community College officials were alerted Tuesday that members of Westboro Baptist Church will picket the college during the March 19 production of the â€œLaramie Projectâ€ at Duke Theatre.

Members of this Topeka, Kansas, church run by Fred Phelps travel the country preaching that God does not like homosexuals.

In fact, the web address for the church is www.godhatesfags.com.



Matthew

Shepard

LTCC President Paul Killpatrick enlightened the board at the regular meeting Tuesday about the planned protest. Killpatrick said the college would be contacting law enforcement to ensure play attendees are protected and that the protest is peaceful.

The â€œLaramie Projectâ€ is about the death of Matthew Shepard, the college student who made national headlines after he was tortured and killed near Laramie, Wyo., in 1998 because he was gay.

The church has a protest schedule. LTCC is there. The reason for the protest spouts hatred.

Perez controversy lingers; Lovell not part of decision process

By Kathryn Reed

One hour. That was the amount of time Les Lovell was given by Stan Perez before a press release was sent last week saying Perez was withdrawing as a candidate for El Dorado County sheriff.

“It was probably as shocking to me as it was anyone else,” Lovell told *Lake Tahoe News*. He said Perez and his campaign manager made the decision without any input from him. “I don’t know why he chose to withdraw at this point. I think the amount of money and some negative press coming out. It was a personal decision.”

Lovell, a lieutenant in the sheriff's office based in South Lake Tahoe, was picked by Perez to be undersheriff. That decision by the retired California Highway Patrol chief had been met with mixed emotions in the basin. Some believe the No. 2 slot should not be named until after the election. Others saw it as a move by Perez merely to woo Tahoe voters.



Lt. Les Lovell was not part of team deciding Stan Perez should back out of the sheriff's race. Photo/Lisa J. Tolda

None of that matters now that Perez has pulled out of the race. On Feb. 19 Perez told *Lake Tahoe News* his departure had to do with money and the difficulty in fund raising, and having spent more than $50,000 of his own cash.

Subsequently, the *Mountain Democrat* in Placerville wrote a story stating Perez lied about his education and therefore was paid at a rate of pay he had not earned.

Perez has since written a scathing letter to that paper saying its allegations are completely false.

That letter in part says, "Had you conducted a thorough inquiry and asked for the CHP's policy by which the

educational pay incentive program works – which is a public document and was given to whom we believe is 'your source' – it would have shown that eligibility for educational pay is possession of an Advanced POST certificate. On July 3, 1995, I completed the CHP Form 74, which is the application for this pay having been awarded an Advanced POST certificate. I checked the box on this form entitled, –$200 for Advanced POST certificate or equivalent. I did not check the Associate Degree box nor the Bachelor Degree box. On July 13, 1995, the CHP approved me to receive the aforementioned pay based upon me being awarded an Advanced POST certificate, not a degree."

Perez responded to a phone inquiry from *Lake Tahoe News* on Feb. 23 regarding the education brouhaha via an email. That email said the official education pay document proves he did nothing wrong.

"What he told me is that he only accepted the pay rate of associate's degree because his bachelor's degree is not accredited," Lovell said. "I talked to Stan last Saturday and he said the whole thing about education incentives is bunk and he can prove it."

Still, though, what Lovell says about the associate's degree and what Perez's letter says don't jibe.

Perez in his email said he was out of good cell phone coverage and therefore an interview on Tuesday was not possible.

To further convolute the issue, on Perez's website under training it says:

FBI National Academy

CHP Academy

U.C. Davis Executive Leadership Program

P.O.S.T. Supervisory Leadership Institute

Criminal Justice Management, BS

Administration of Justice, AA

The California Highway Patrol could release Perez's personnel records stating his rate of pay, the incentive pay and documentation of his education. Lovell said Perez met with the CHP commissioner on Friday. What will be disclosed to the public remains to be seen.

Lovell is not going to back any of the other six sheriff's candidates at this point. He wants to meet with them before the June primary.

"I don't expect any retaliation because I supported somebody who is no longer in the race. We'll see," Lovell said.

Lovell had considered running for the position before he met Perez.

"Because of his concepts and ideas I joined his campaign," Lovell said. "Clearly, I am disappointed because of his concepts and energy would be really good for us."

Garridos lobby for right to visit each other in jail

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

The El Dorado County sheriff is objecting to a request that Phillip and Nancy Garrido be allowed to visit each other in jail, saying it "is breathtaking in its audacity."

Lawyers for the pair say the two accused kidnappers of Jaycee

Lee Dugard need to meet to make family decisions and that they must be allowed to discuss their pending court case.

Read the whole story