Consultant tied to Judge Bailey pleads no contest

Cris Alarcon, the Placerville man whose firm was subject of an El Dorado County Grand Jury investigation that involved El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Steve Bailey, pleaded no contest July 16 to nine charges.

Alarcon was fined $6,516 and to summary probation for four years for receiving stolen goods, driving on a suspended or revoked license, displaying false registration on a vehicle, driving without insurance and not having current registration.

Five charges were dropped.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

South Tahoe man wins at Crossfit Games

South Tahoe CrossFit owner Tim Anderson placed first Sunday in the 55-60 Masters Division in the Reebok Crossfit Games.

This makes him “Fittest in the World” for his age division.



Tim Anderson, right, competes July 15. Photo/Provided

Truckee man arrested on attempted murder charges

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

TRUCKEE – A Truckee man has been arrested and jailed for investigation of attempted murder following the stabbing Sunday of a man inside the town's Safeway supermarket.

Jayson Allen Maglaya, 34, was also booked for parole violation.

The victim, a 33-year-old Truckee resident, was transported to Tahoe Forest Hospital by ambulance following the 5:30pm incident. He had been stabbed twice.

His wounds don't appear to be life threatening at this time, according to a Truckee Police Department report.

The men have had an ongoing dispute and became involved in a

fight inside the store before the stabbing occurred, according to the report.

Maglaya fled the scene, police said. At 11:45pm, investigating officers learned he was in Truckee's Glenshire subdivision near his residence. Using a thermal imager, police located him hiding under a deck.

He was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Nevada County jail in Truckee at 1:15am Monday.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call Detective Arnie Lopez at (530) 550.2323.

Placer County residents returning to fire area; containment in sight

By Bill Lindelof, Sacramento Bee

A week after they were forced from their homes by the Robbers Fire, residents of the Brushy Creek and Yankee Jims areas will be allowed to return to their residences.

Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said evacuees will be allowed back into these areas beginning at 9am today. Homes in these areas, he said, account for a majority of the 170 residences that had been threatened by the fire

The cooler weather has allowed firefighters to make progress in corralling a stubborn Placer County wildland blaze.

The Robbers Fire, which started July 11, was 60 percent contained as of late (Tuesday) afternoon, Berlant said.

Total acreage burned is 2,650 acres. The onset of cooler weather, higher humidity and lack of major wind has helped firefighters.

Read the whole story

Opinion: Fed up with 40 years of hypocrisy in Tahoe

By David Triano

I moved to South Lake Tahoe as an 8-year-old in 1973. After college and eight years of professional pursuits, I chose my hometown of South Lake Tahoe as the place to raise my two sons. Simply put, I love Lake Tahoe.

Over the years, I have seen the many special interest groups clambering for attention in our town. I was here when the TRPA initiated their building moratorium, when they fined us for cutting down trees on our own land, and other blunders. I was here to see our once-successful airport be run into the ground by a city council hungry for revenue.

Heck, I was even here to see a nascent “domestic terrorist” blow up Harveys.

I am probably one of the most “environmentally appreciative” and careful residents of this town. I do my best to be a good steward of this area when I am hiking with our Boy Scout troop (I am an assistant Scout master), mountain biking the ascent of Oneidas, or enjoying our beaches. As I said, I love Lake

Tahoe.

And so it is that I am stepping out on a limb, so to speak, to alert our community to a situation of grave environmental impact that has continued since I was a boy. In 1974, my parents Ron and Carolyn purchased Lot 2, TK1 in the Tahoe Keys area. The lot is on Dover Drive, a tiny side road off of Tahoe Keys Boulevard. It backs up to a beautiful designated wildfowl refuge, the meadow on the west side of the Upper Truckee River. The whole area is also designated a 10-year flood plain, which means that when water levels are high from spring runoff, the meadow floods from the Truckee, and the contents of the meadow empty directly into the lake.

The only downside to my parent's lot was that at the time (1974), Dover Drive was also the access road to a long dirt road leading to the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Maintenance Yard. My parents were assured that this was a temporary situation, and that the yard would be phased out "soon".

For almost 40 years now, our family has tolerated 100 passages of this dirt road each day, and many days quite a few more, I have counted over 250 passages in one day. The vehicles using this silt road range from passenger cars speeding along as high as 30 mph to huge semi-trucks pulling double trailers, full size loaders, and every type of utility truck. Each one of them trails a huge column of dust and silt. Are you beginning to see the issue here?

We are all encouraged to "do your BMPs", park on paved lots only so as not to disturb the dust, practice "leave no trace" ethics in virtually every aspect of our lives here in Lake Tahoe and so many other small things, all in the push to maintain a certain clarity level in the lake, while the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Maintenance Yard has produced massive dust and silt that goes directly into a designated 10-year flood plain, a wildfowl refuge. In the winter, all runoff from the dirt road goes directly into the meadow. Their yard

contains a drainage culvert that drains right into this environmentally sensitive area, and for 40 years the TKPOA has “enlarged” their yard by dumping dirt, yard waste, and other detritus on the fringes of the yard. I remember what the yard was like when I was a kid, and to see how big it is it now is quite shocking. For 40 years, various general managers at the TKPOA have promised my parents that the road would be paved, that the yard would be closed, all statements that have proved to be lies.

Here’s where some really distasteful hypocrisy comes into view: The land the yard and its silt access road are on are owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy. They gave the TKPOA a 99-year lease, and for decades have turned a blind eye to the pollution occurring on their own property. What exactly are they conserving?

Also disgusting is the lack of attention to this yard by the TRPA and Lahontan. You see, the practices of the TKPOA yard grossly violate TRPA and Lahontan codes and regulations, and for decades both organizations have also ignored this fact and allowed the TKPOA yard to keep pumping pollution into our lake. My family has complained to all of the organizations I have listed for decades, with no substantive action. The issue always gets shuffled under the table, the workers in the yard are told to slow down, or (as they have done in the last day) they spread stone gravel on the silt road. I guess this is supposed to be their BMPs. In three weeks the gravel will have all sublimated into the silt and migrated into the meadow. The gravel does little to mitigate the billowing clouds of silt, and I have lots of video and still photography that document this fact. I will soon upload the videos to YouTube, so look for “Tahoe Gross Polluter” to judge for yourself.

CTC, TRPA, and Lahontan: You are the worst kind of hypocrites, and you are not enforcing the regulations that your existence mandates.

I would invite anyone in the community out to view this circus of environmental destruction. Come on by Dover Drive, have a lemonade with me (if you can tolerate the dust) and watch how our wonderful watchdog organizations ignore their mandates. They do this while claiming to be working for the health of the lake. Pure environmental hypocrisy is the result of their existence. My latest efforts to contact the TRPA have gone without a return call. The only organizations that have stepped forward to see this travesty for what it is are the Sierra Club and the League to Save Lake Tahoe, who I am now actively engaged with to fight for this wholesale pollution to finally end.

I am a resident of South Lake Tahoe who loves his community. I love the beauty that surrounds us. I am a man who believes that I can best determine my own fate and way in the world, without government intervention. I will not tolerate the blatant abuse of my childhood home by local agencies and the TKPOA any longer.

Tahoe author to host 3-day writing workshop

Lake Tahoe author Todd Borg is putting on a writing workshop at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center.

The event is Sept. 14-16.

For more information, visit the “Workshops” page on his website.

Bijou Bash evolving into lifestyle festival

Bijou Bash has been renamed Lake Tahoe Lifestyle Festival.

The annual South Lake Tahoe event is now a city and Barton Health event.

The Lake Tahoe Lifestyle Festival mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle and environment for residents and visitors to South Lake Tahoe. Participants can look forward to interactive booths and an overall experience highlighting the outdoors in a fun and festive atmosphere.

Guided hikes, mountain bike skills clinics and fun runs will be some of the activities offered.

The festival will be Sept. 8 from 10am–4pm.

Where do you take Tahoe visitors to in summer?

Chatfield walk and talk on medicinal plants

Kimball Chatfield, a medicinal plants expert, will speak during a walk through Hope Valley at Sorensen's Resort on July 29 from 10am to 2pm.

Chatfield is author of "Medicine From the Mountains: Medicinal Plants of the Sierra Nevada" with illustrations by Kristen Schwartz.

The event is $35 for resort guests and $50 for non-guests. Bring your own lunch or purchase one at Sorensen's.

For more information, call 800.423.9949.

U.S. Olympic team to field more women than men

By Mary Pilon, New York Times

The news that the United States will send more women than men to compete on its Olympic team in London reflects a turnaround

in women’s participation in the modern Games that’s evolved over the past century.

The 530-member U.S. Olympic team is comprised of 269 women and 261 men, spanning 25 different sports.

In 2008, the U.S. sent 306 men and 282 women to Beijing (588 total) and 279 men and 254 women (533 total) went to Athens, according to the International Society of Olympic Historians. In 2000, 332 men went to Sydney and 253 women for a total of 586 athletes.

Women also represent both ends of the age spectrum of the U.S. 2012 team. Karen O’Connor, a 54-year-old equestrian, will be the oldest member of the team, and swimmer Katie Ledecky, 15, is the youngest. (The average age for the team is 27, according to the U.S.O.C.) There are 54 dads and 13 moms on the team.

Read the whole story