Nevada falls to last in education ranking

By Trevon Milliard, Reno Gazette-Journal

After years of floundering near the bottom in a widely watched report card for state education systems, Nevada has sunk to dead last.

For the first time, the Silver State fell behind all other states and Washington, D.C., in the annual Quality Counts report, which assigns overall scores to states based on student performance, school financing and other qualities of K-12 public schools.

“It’s honestly disheartening,” said Nevada interim Superintendent Steve Canavero on Wednesday before the results were publicly released.

Read the whole story

EDC seeks to be part of State of Jefferson

Updated Jan. 8, 6:40pm:

By Alexei Koseff, Sacramento Bee

Now tallying 20 counties among their ranks, supporters of the movement to carve an independent “State of Jefferson” out of Northern California plan to introduce a bill this session seeking sovereignty.

Organizers on Wednesday turned in declarations for 15 counties, including Sutter, Nevada and El Dorado, asking the state to grant them permission to separate. Six others petitions – which were either passed by the county boards of supervisors or reflect signature-gathering drives – have already been filed.

Jefferson proponents contend that their rural areas lack adequate representation in state government, which has led to over-regulation and environmental policies that decimated their regional economies, particularly the logging and mining industries that historically supported them. Their seal bears an XX, signifying that they have been double-crossed by state government.

Read the whole story

Burning Man appeals tax that could raise ticket prices

By Riley McDermid, San Francisco Business Times

A new Nevada state tax that could cost the promoters of popular festival Burning Man an extra $3 million a year and cause ticket prices to rise is being appealed by promoters.

Promoters from the Burning Man Projects have said the increase could cause tickets prices to spike as much as $35 to about $425 per person.

Last year, Nevada passed SB 266, which says says non-profits that offer for sale 7,500 tickets or more, and where the patrons participate in that entertainment, and “the number of tickets to the activity offered for sale or other distribution is 15,000 or more," are no longer excluded from the live entertainment tax.

Read the whole story

Harder drugs, more medical calls at SnowGlobe

Rock Med officials at SnowGlobe at times asked law enforcement to leave the tent because patients didn't feel comfortable. Photo Copyright 2016 Carolyn E. Wright

By Kathryn Reed

More medical issues at SnowGlobe this year could be the result of concertgoers using harder drugs.

That was the message Russell Liles, detective with South Lake El Dorado Narcotics Task Force, told the local drug coalition on Jan. 5.

Rock Med was in charge of all onsite medical issues for the three-day musical festival last month in South Lake Tahoe. The organization specializes in working at events like this. Exact numbers of how many people were treated have not been released.

The medical group also had personnel at the transit center in case anyone who got on a bus at the concert venue needed attention before going to their lodging establishment.

Barton Memorial Hospital handled the more serious cases, like drug overdoses. The emergency room saw 116 patients total from 7pm to 7am on the three nights of the music festival, of which one-third were estimated to be SnowGlobers.

"The majority of patients treated at Barton from SnowGlobe were due to weather exposure, alcohol use or substance use," Mindi Befu, Barton spokeswoman, told *Lake Tahoe News.* "There was an increase in SnowGlobe patients when the Rock Med tent onsite at the event was no longer available for service."

Molly – aka MDA and ecstasy – remains the drug of choice for this crowd. It makes people extremely thirsty. That's why lines are long to refill water bottles.

The amnesty box was nearly empty. This is where people can dump their illegal drugs without any questions being asked or threat of arrest.

"I think they are getting better at smuggling drugs in," Liles said.

People were using DMT (dimethyltryptamine), according to

Liles. It is a psychedelic drug. He added this was the first year officers saw the hallucinogen ketamine (aka Special K). It's an animal tranquilizer that has effects similar to PCP that is often used with ecstasy.

Officers noticed significantly less marijuana use this year compared to the past when it was almost like getting a contact high walking the grounds.

What alarmed Liles, though, was the number of minors cited for possession of alcohol – 104.

It's estimated 35,000 people attended the Dec. 29-31 event on the ball field at Lake Tahoe Community College.

Nevada to help driverless car industry

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The state will dedicate resources through the Governor's Office of Economic Development toward the autonomous car industry in a bid to become the nation's leader in the testing and development of vehicles that drive themselves.

At a workshop meeting of transportation regulators and car manufacturers Tuesday, Gov. Brian Sandoval announced that within a month, a center for autonomous vehicles would be created within his economic development office.

Sandoval said dedicating state resources for those vehicles would be a first in the United States.

The office would assist companies looking to test or build their vehicles in Nevada the same way that the state now helps companies with unmanned aerial vehicles.

Read the whole story

Historic agreement allows for water storage

In March 2015 there was no water flowing from Lake Tahoe to the Truckee River, which contributed to the need to change water agreements. Photo/LTN file

By Anne Knowles

RENO – The Truckee River Operating Agreement is a done deal.

Parties to the landmark water compact, which went into effect Dec. 1 after nearly three decades of negotiations and work, took time out Tuesday to celebrate.

“From a drought perspective, this is a game changer,” Leo Drozdoff, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resource, said Jan. 5. “It provides certainty in uncertain times.”

The agreement allows upstream users such as Truckee Meadows Water Authority to store water they are entitled to rather than release it from reservoirs if it weren’t immediately needed, and receive a credit to use the water when it is needed.

“We’ve never been able to store water in the winter before,” John Erwin, director of natural resources planning and management at TMWA, told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Since Dec. 1, when TROA took effect, TMWA has been able to store 2,700 acre-feet of water. Overall, TMWA expects to triple its storage, helping the municipal water purveyor to handle drought and continue to allow the Truckee Meadows to grow.

California, too, can start storing water rather than diverting it once the Water Resources Board agrees to a reporting framework, probably in a month or so, David Willoughby, engineer with the Watershed Assessment Section of California Department of Water Resources, told *Lake Tahoe News.*

The agreement also allows for those credits to be used or exchanged in multiple reservoirs.

“It allows storage by different entities in different spaces. Before it went down the river,” Willoughby said.

The flexibility should also help downstream users.

“Regimented release didn’t always match up to the needs downstream,” Arthur Hinojosa, division of integrated regional water management of California DWR, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Needs are not always consumptive. This is better for the fish and for recreation."

That includes the endangered Cui-ui and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout, vital to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and its fishery.

Before TROA, the federal water master was required by court decrees to release water from reservoirs year-round in order to maintain river flows.

Now, the water master and a group of signatories will meet monthly to discuss and schedule variable releases.

The committee – which consists of the federal water master and a representative from California and Nevada, TMWA, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – has been meeting for years in what Chad Blanchard, the water master, called mock TROA.

The group has also been using mock data because the ongoing drought has meant there's no water to wrangle over. So they've used made up data that lets them simulate real negotiations.

In December, for the first time, the group used real data, Blanchard told *Lake Tahoe News*.

In the end, the water master is the arbiter who will determine water releases, especially in the case of any minor conflict of interests. If a conflict gets more complicated, Blanchard said TROA stipulates a special hearing prosecutor to settle disputes.

"It is emotional," Mark Foree, general manager of Truckee Meadows Water Authority, said as he looked around the packed room at the Siena Hotel, and added some of the people involved in the agreement had essentially spent their careers on it.

"It was a surreal moment when they reported to us this is done," said Vinton Hawley, tribal chairman, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. "I said it let's give it a week and let it set in. Somebody may oppose it."

TMWA and the tribe are two of five major signatories to TROA, an agreement designed to manage allocations among Truckee's users and hopefully end more than a century of court battles over what is considered the country's most litigated river.

TROA has 15 signatories: the five major parties which form the release scheduling group and 10 others – the Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District, Washoe County Water Conservation District, the cities of Reno, Sparks and Fernley, Washoe County, Sierra Valley Mutual Water Co., Truckee-Donner Public Utility District, Placer County Water Agency and North Tahoe Public Utility District.

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, which manages the Newlands project in Northern Nevada, is not a signatory and TMWA's Foree said TCID in the next few weeks will drop its litigation opposing TROA, removing what the signatories hope is the agreement's final hurdle.

Calif. misses water-saving mark for 2nd month

By Scott Smith, AP

Residents of drought-stricken California used 20 percent less water in November, falling short of the governor's 25 percent conservation mandate for a second straight month, officials reported Tuesday.

Despite missing the mandate, California remains on course to beat its long-term goal through February, said Felicia Marcus, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Residents have saved a combined 26 percent since the cutbacks began in June, she said at a meeting in Sacramento.

The tally came as a series of much-anticipated El Nino storms began to drench the state and boost the already high snowpack.

Officials had expected less water saving during the winter, when residents reduce landscape irrigation, Marcus said.

Still, the latest numbers reflect considerable savings over past years, Marcus said, adding that residents understand it’s too early to declare an end to the four-year drought.

Most strikingly, average monthly water use declined from 87 gallons for each person in October to 75 gallons in November, hitting the lowest level since the curtailments began, officials reported.

“Californians are clearly thinking twice before turning on the tap,” Marcus said in a statement.

Gov. Jerry Brown ordered the 25 percent cutbacks in June compared to the same period in 2013, the year before he declared a drought emergency.

Conservation efforts hit a setback in October, when Californians missed the mandated target, posting 22 percent in savings.

Regulators renewed their appeal for conservation, even with the coming storms and as a recent Sierra Nevada snowpack survey showing water content was well above normal for this time of year.

“We’re in such a deep hole,” Marcus said. “We need to have a lot of water in storage and snow in the mountains to let us relax at all.”

Dry La Niña might follow soggy El Niño

By Kurtis Alexander, San Francisco Chronicle

Beyond all the hype over a possible drought-busting El Niño this winter is a much grimmer prospect for California: a dry La Niña come fall.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration joined international forecasters recently in predicting the potential rise of El Niño’s sister phenomenon, La Niña — a similar shift in Pacific Ocean temperatures, but in the opposite direction with far different repercussions for global weather.
While no one can be certain what a La Niña might mean for California, especially this early, the pattern has generally correlated with drier conditions, particularly in the southern part of the state. How much this will even matter is also unknown as El Niño is expected to soon ease the state’s water crisis with a blast of wet weather.

“It’s still too far out to reach any conclusions about La Niña,” said Dave Rizzardo, who helps track the state’s water supplies as chief of snow surveys for the California Department of Water Resources. “But it would be unfortunate to know that, hey, we had a great year, we bailed ourselves out of the drought, and then we fall right back in.”

Read the whole story

Heavenly at 60 – a ski resort for the ages

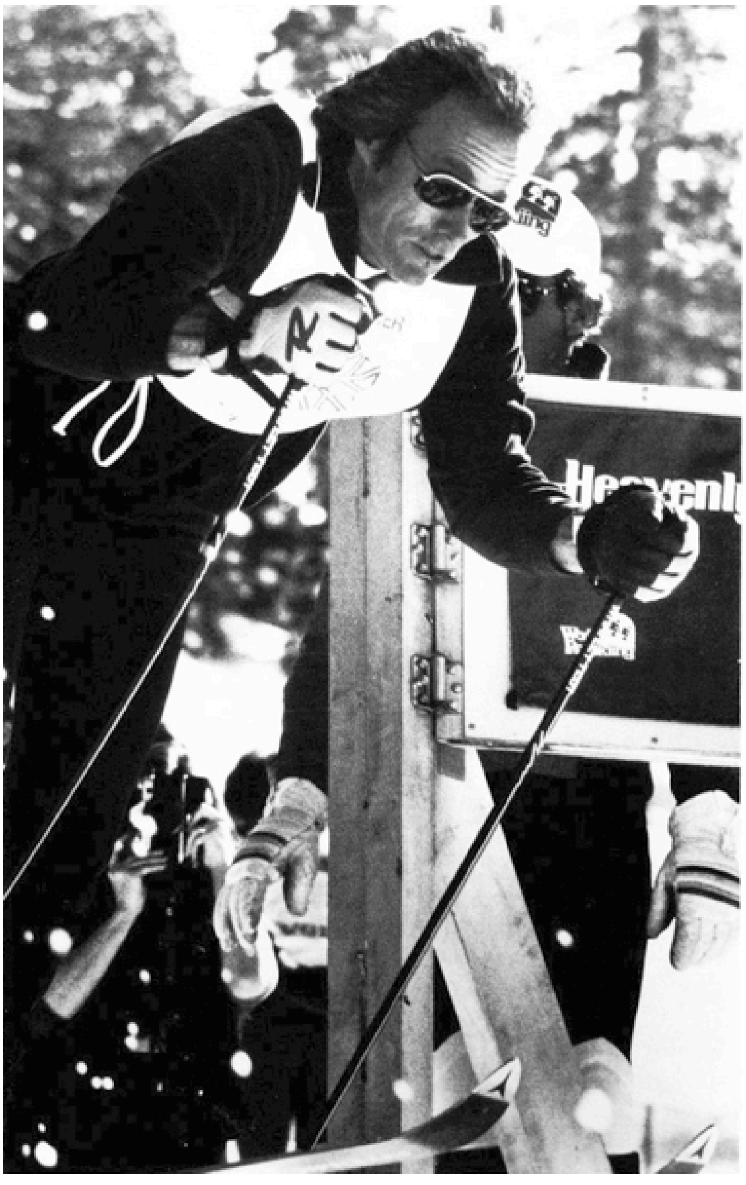
Heavenly started out small 60 years ago, but has grown to be one of the largest ski resorts in the United States. Photo/Heavenly Mountain Resort

By Susan Wood

It’s taken more than divine intervention to keep Heavenly Mountain Resort operating and successful for the last 60 years.

It’s taken a group of dedicated, resilient, ambitious individuals – some as ski bums in other lives – who have overcome tragedy and embraced triumph. They reflect fondly on this dual-state South Shore ski area. All have things in common: They love to ski and are willing to go the extra mile or extra effort to make it a memorable and family-filled experience.

“I’m always nostalgic about Heavenly. I always think about when my dad ran the resort,” said Bill Killebrew, who at age 23 took over as chief for his father, Hugh, when the elder Killebrew was killed in a plane crash on Echo Summit with three others in August 1977.



Clint Eastwood competes in the John

Denver Celebrity Ski Classic.
Photo/Heavenly Mountain Resort

It was the heyday for Heavenly, ushered in by Hugh Killebrew’s zest for fun, showmanship and racing — most often on World Cup.

When he perished, the young Killebrew had to fill a tall order: get the ski area out of debt, deal with losing his father and take care of the employees.

“None of us knows how we’re going to react in these times. For me, when I saw my dad’s airplane on the road, it was real. I knew he was dead. I put aside my emotions and drove to the nearest telephone. I spoke to my dad’s secretary (current day executive assistant Nancy McCoy) and arranged to talk to the managers,” Killebrew told *Lake Tahoe News* from his Stateline office. He had a steely resolve that thrust him into autopilot.

“And I wanted to be the one to tell my mother,” he said of Eleanor, who as a consummate hostess ran many of the major events at Heavenly throughout the 1960s and ’70s.

Killebrew, who essentially grew up with Heavenly, worked as a ditch digger, heavy equipment operator and in lift construction. He raced in the winter. In summer, he hiked with his father as a teenager and learned about the constellations. To this day, Milky Way Bowl, Big Dipper, Little Dipper and Orion on the Nevada side that opened in 1968, serve as a fitting tribute to those cherished father-son outings.

Malcolm Tibbetts' contributions to the resort are memorialized at the midstation of the gondola. Photo/Susan Wood

The UC Berkeley graduate felt driven to carry on his father's plans for snowmaking, operations that have saved many a season at this mid-town ski area. Countless explosions and engineering ingenuity later, pipe was laid on Maggie's, Patsy's and World Cup runs.

But since Mother Nature has the last say, the snow melted in snowmaking's infancy. And there went the money.

In 1978 around Thanksgiving, Killebrew made the last payroll, exceeded his credit card limit, laid off most of the staff and made an appointment to file bankruptcy papers. But one Sunday brought about a milestone when the rain turned to snow. He got a brilliant idea to mark the end of drought with two days of free skiing. The daring gamble paid off. He burned the bankruptcy papers and called the media. Reservation lines were slammed, and 6,000 skiers showed up the first day and another

7,000 on Thanksgiving Day. The major networks showed up, and Heavenly made a mound of cash from meals and rental equipment.

Incredible views have always been a selling point for Heavenly. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Lessons learned and passed on

Heavenly’s origin had humble beginnings. In 1947, Lee and Daisy Miller built a warming hut in Bijou Park where skis and boots could be rented near a rope tow that transported skiers up 1,000 feet. At times, they even erected floodlights for night racing.

In 1951, Miller leased the Skiway to Bill Sutherland. Four years later, Miller turned over the operation to George Canon, Rudy Gersick and Curly Musso – who with Chris Kuraisa, a local casino owner who arrived in December 1953, had visions of promoting South Lake Tahoe as a winter destination for tourists. As hotel operators, Rudy and Trudy Gersick pitched the idea of visitors staying at the Ski Run Lodge and skiing with local instructor extraordinaire Stein Eriksen. In only a year, the Olympic gold medalist and world-renowned skier ran the ski school. (Eriksen died last week at age 88.)

No one was particularly wealthy at the time, but the early players were rich with dreams of placing South Lake Tahoe on the ski map for good. They were visionaries — a theme that carried on with subsequent owners, operators and planners.

Take Kuraisa, the founder. Not only did he lose his son in a fatal bicycle accident two days before opening, he endured immense financial challenges and hardships, but came out ahead in the end.

First, Kuraisa placed his life savings in the Tahoe Sport Center store when he arrived and got into the ski industry with a rope tow. Sutherland sold the rope tow to Kuraisa for $1,950 in cash, with a $50 option attached to the property Sutherland was originally selling for $3,750. Dorothy Kuraisa was nervous about living on the edge with her husband spending the last of their grocery money. But according to Heavenly's chronicled history, Chris Kuraisa pledged the investment in what become to be known as Heavenly Valley would produce a return because of snow in the forecast the night of the deal day. The next day, the two feet brought out skiers spending $483 on lift tickets and sandwiches.

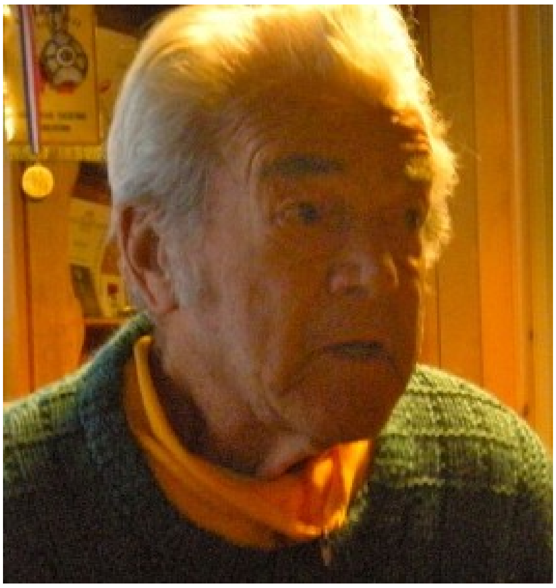
Heavenly Valley opened in December 1955 with a double chairlift on Gunbarrel, several rope tows and the Pioneer Warming Hut.

Building from the early investment in the mid- to late 1950s, the aerial tram was constructed in 1962. This opened up the mountain to year-round sightseeing from the ridgetop that provides Heavenly’s sweeping, signature view and took skiers to the backside of the mountain.

The site has transformed into various hang out eateries and watering holes. (In 2003, the Monument Peak restaurant at the top of the tram was the setting for a party honoring founding partners Patsy Gilman Wood and husband Bob, who were instrumental in getting the tram off the ground.)

There's even a funny account of Patsy delivering dozens of doughnuts for one of the races and losing several of them as they rolled down the Face.

The 1960s and '70s at Heavenly Valley established a reputation for celebrities and contests honoring beauty and speed.



Martin Hollay

Martin Hollay, who is in his 90s and still lives within walking distance to the tram, skis most every morning. He remembers with affection the early days of his 30-year career with Heavenly. A glove maker from Budapest, Hollay has worked as a groomer and patrolman. For years, he's made custom ski gloves for the Heavenly patrol. He was honored for his work in 2002 by skiing the Olympic torch down the World Cup run before it made its way to Salt Lake City.

"Skiing may be more crowded, but it really hasn't changed to me. It's just as it was before," Hollay told *Lake Tahoe News* recently.

He sticks to Heavenly, and in particular the tram, as his method for getting on the mountain for good reason.

“It takes me almost an hour to drive anywhere else. In that time, I’ve already made turns already,” he said.

The Killebrew years

It took a former submarine commander in World War II, airplane pilot since a teenager and San Francisco lawyer to steer the ski area into the generation of Heavenly dreams.

Hugh Killebrew took over Heavenly Valley at a time when “skies the limit” fell over the world of skiing. Being a visionary, he knew that being at the mercy of Mother Nature meant making other arrangements to keep visitors and locals interested in paying for the sport that was growing in popularity.

Pop culture in the 1970s spawned the John Denver Celebrity Ski Classic and Chevrolet Freestyle Championships, among other races. The Heavenly Blue Angels, the first alpine ski club, provided growing interest in many skiers improving their skills.

The 1970s also brought about what has become known as the Hot Doggers of Heavenly.

The gondola under construction. Photo/Heavenly Mountain Resort

Malcolm Tibbetts, former vice president of mountain operations, was one of them.

At age 23, Tibbetts started with Heavenly as a ski patroller in 1971. He’s held posts as the assistant director, ski patrol director and mountain manager. Tibbetts was so instrumental to Heavenly’s growth, an honorary plaque was installed at the midstation of the gondola to commemorate his contributions to snowmaking, designing the midstation and getting the gondola off the ground in 2000.

Tibbetts, 66, grew up and later served in the military in Germany on skis — having never missed a winter in 60 years. He hails from New Hampshire and plans to return to the East this spring to hike the Appalachian Trail, which sits on his bucket list. Along the way, he’ll be thinking about completing his memoirs — much of the life story about his tenure at Heavenly.

After serving in the Armed Forces, he packed a Volkswagen van and traveled the country.

“All over, I heard about Tahoe and had a friend here,” he told Lake Tahoe News.

Money was lacking at the time, but Camp Richardson provided a free spot to camp if he cleaned the bathrooms and collected fees. Hollay gave Tibbetts his first job at $1.77 per hour.

“I came here for a year of ski bumming,” he said. After a year of “hot dogging” at Heavenly over gigantic jumps, he broke his back doing a flip. Even that didn’t keep him from hitting the slopes.

He skied with the likes of Eriksen, having to race against him in the World Cup. There were races, parties, events and challenges.

“I had a great career. Who can claim to have an office over 22 square miles,” he said. “I met my wife Tere here and raised two kids.”

Even after knee surgery, Tibbetts went out skiing recently and shared feelings of nostalgia.

“I look all around and see things I built,” he said at the base of the Comet chairlift.

Nancy Greene and Jean Claude Killy when World Cup races were held at Heavenly. Photo/Heavenly Mountain Resort

Tibbetts commended the younger Killebrew for getting Heavenly out of debt in the late 1970s and having the foresight to make snowmaking a priority after the elder Killebrew died.

“The plane crash was the saddest time. There are certainly events in life you remember where you were. That was one of them for me. The ski area was in ruins when Bill took over. He was incredibly lucky,” Tibbetts said of the good fortune bestowed on Bill at his time of need.

At the time, a lift ticket was $3.50.

“Now you can’t buy a cup of coffee for that,” he said.

Snowmaking didn’t come without its challenges. Tibbetts recalled renting pumps and closing off Keller Avenue’s fire hydrant to get snow to fly on the World Cup run.

“We were babes in the woods and learned the hard way,” he said.

One pipe blew out and temporarily blinded him. He was forced to count the numbers on a rotary-dial phone to call his wife.

With snowmaking and all things Heavenly, what a ride it was.

How has the ride changed?

Tibbetts thinks back on the Killebrew days as a period where he could waltz in the office and give his two cents on Heavenly operations. He didn’t always see eye-to-eye with the Killebrews, but he said they always respected his opinions.

Heavenly is now a year-round resort with ropes courses available in the summer and more activities coming soon. Photo/LTN file

In 1990, the Kamori Kanko company bought the ski resort from Killebrew – taking the first step in Heavenly’s transformation into an international company. The Japanese investor was known for taking good care of the employees, according to Tibbetts. A year later, the Mott Canyon chairlift on the Nevada side opened. The year after that, the top of the mountain Sky chairlift made its debut as an express lift.

By that time, Kamori under the direction of chief Dennis Harmon had bragging rights to 65 percent of snowmaking coverage and lifts dotting two states.

Owner Katsuo Kamori endured his own tragedy when he lost his son in a fatal accident.

In 1997, Kamori turned over the reins to Les Otten of American Skiing Company – a corporation with roots in the East.

The following year, Sonny Bono, the entertainer and congressman, was killed when he hit a tree while skiing.

Despite the ups and downs of Heavenly's history, ASC pursued Kamori's tireless efforts dealing with government agencies on a $4 million master plan for the resort amid environmental regulations, one of the resort's largest challenges.

The gondola opened in 2000 due to ASC's efforts – with employees taking part in the physical end of laying the cables. When it opened, Tibbetts recalled it as "the scariest day of my whole career because of my decision to run that thing" since the spotlight was on the ski area. The gondola was finally the link between the casinos at Stateline and the high part of the mountain.

"We had (wind) gusts of 70 miles per hour," he said.

The gondola may have been a blessing to the town, but it came at a price for ASC. Its stock was so low – less than $1 – by the time it sold Heavenly to Vail Resort, it was delisted on the New York Stock Exchange.

Vail leads the way

The Broomfield, Colo.-based company has invested tens of millions of dollars in Heavenly, launching the South Shore ski area into the corporate arena in 2002.

Most stakeholders and observers see the change in atmosphere as “different.” Many of the ski resorts from the 1950s to 1980s were run by families. Now the ski industry has gone corporate, with stockholders to satisfy, as well as cash to improve tired infrastructure.

The Heavenly Village with the gondola links the town to the mountain. Photo/LTN file

And Heavenly was special to this Colorado company. Having a resort in California helped it diversify its regional portfolio in case other areas where it owns resorts have tough times. Take a look at its first Chief Operating Officer Blaise Carrig, who moved from running Heavenly to being in charge of western mountain operations at corporate before retiring last summer.

Heavenly has spawned many a ski industry career.

Former Vice President of Planning and Governmental Affairs Stan Hansen started as a ski instructor and patroller in 1966 before retiring in 2001.

“I used to say I degreed in Hugh Killebrew,” he said from his Puerto Rico home where he relishes the retirement life. “Heavenly’s come a long ways.”

Hansen embraced working with Tibbetts during Heavenly’s growth years.

“Malcolm could build anything,” Hansen said, adding the gondola was “a destiny”. The early pioneering Heavenly stakeholders thought about the benefit to hooking the town with the upper mountain. Kamori wanted it. Marriott stepped aside from the ground level, but built its two hotel condominium projects at Heavenly Village at the base in 2002. Vail swooped in when it saw the promise of having the eight-person cars whisking skiers and boarders up the mountainside.

Even former President Bill Clinton endorsed the idea. Upon his visit for the Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit in 1997 he mentioned the lift specifically.

“I’ll never forget all of us sitting around in a meeting, and Clinton said: ‘I think you should build a gondola from the town to the top’,” Hansen said, snickering. The governmental affairs guru looked over at Andrew Strain, who worked for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency – the regulatory agency tasked with keeping projects in line the region’s lake clarity mission.

“He rolled his eyes and said: ‘You got to him’,” Hansen said of Strain, who now works for Heavenly as the vice president of planning.

“It’s been an interesting ride,” Hansen said.

Don Evans, Heavenly’s marketing manager, also placed the gondola construction in 2000 on the top of the list of pivotal moments for the ski resort.

“What hit me is I knew all the people building it, and they got in such good shape, they looked like body builders. I barely recognized them,” Evans said.

Evans said he has thoroughly enjoyed his tenure at Heavenly. He arrived in 1974 after leaving Pennsylvania, where he taught skiing.

Miss Snow used to be an annual event at the resort. Photo/Heavenly Mountain Resort

“The first day I went out on Heavenly I didn’t know much about the place,” he said. “We all went out. It was a cloudy day with fresh snow. When I skied the California side, I thought ‘I’m skiing with the big boys.’ I realized I was in a pretty special place.”

Through the years of promoting it, he’s learned about and embraced Heavenly’s storied past.

“We’re lucky to live here. I’ve felt such a sense of community,” Evans told Lake Tahoe News. “I look at where I am now and where the mountain is now – there’s been a real organic connection between the mountain and the town.”

Even those who move away get the connection.

“I started skiing there in the seventh grade,” said Linda Jahn, daughter of South Lake Tahoe’s resident historian Betty Mitchell. The 69-year-old got nostalgic about being a member of the youth ski club – the Heavenly Blue Angels.

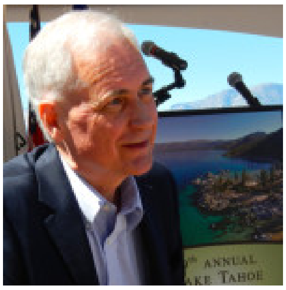
“Everybody knew everybody back then,” she said. “I skied every day after school. This was such a memorable time.”

McClintock not only Calif. lawmaker not living in district he represents

By Javier Panzar, Los Angeles Times

It was the spring of 1998. Then-Assemblywoman Grace F. Napolitano was in the middle of a heated battle with fellow Democrat Jamie Casso.

With the primary to fill the House seat opened up by the retirement of Casso’s father-in-law, Democratic Rep. Esteban Torres, approaching, Napolitano and her advisors zeroed in on what usually amounts to a throwaway issue. Casso, a longtime Torres aide, did not live within the boundaries of the congressional district he sought to represent.



Rep. Tom McClintock represents the California side of Lake Tahoe. Photo/LTN file

Napolitano won that primary by 618 votes.

Some state and local lawmakers have been prosecuted for not living in the districts they ran to represent – a requirement under California law. When it comes to Congress, federal law only requires members live in the same state as the district.

Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Elk Grove, faced attacks from opponents in 2008 when he sought to represent a Northern California district hundreds of miles away from his state Senate district in Ventura County.

As he announced his bid for the 4th Congressional District on the steps of the historic Auburn courthouse in Gold Rush country, a U-Haul truck drove around the building carrying a sign reading "Termed out Tom All the way from L.A," according to a report in the *Ventura County Star*.

Former Rep. Doug Ose, one of McClintock's rivals for the GOP nomination that year who also lived outside the district boundaries, was responsible for the truck, the *Star* reported.

Read the whole story