

Road Beat: Elantra mpg beats hybrids



Hyundai Elantra Eco may be the best value is a new car today. Photos/Larry Weitzman

By Larry Weitzman

Let's get right to the main point of the new Hyundai Elantra Eco, 53 miles to the gallon. I could stop this Road Beat right now, but there is so much more to write about. Yes, 53 miles per gallon was recorded on a level two-way mileage run with the cruise control set at 70 mph. During the run it even crept up to 56 mpg. And this Elantra Eco is not a hybrid.

What did Hyundai do? They installed in the great looking Elantra body a new conventional powertrain, a 1.4L, turbocharged, DOHC, 16 valve direct injected inline four-cylinder engine connected to the second half of this innovative powertrain, a seven-speed dual clutch automated manual transmission driving the front wheels. This tranny is

extremely smooth and super-efficient. The combination creates an incredible high level of efficiency, including its high (for a turbo engine) 10:1 compression ratio.

EPA rates the fuel economy at 32/40/35 mpg, but the Elantra Eco did much better in my 500-mile test. First, in overall driving it averaged 42 mpg. In a two-way run from Placerville to South Lake Tahoe and back the Eco averaged exactly 50 mpg. It averaged 35.2 mpg to SLT and 64.8 mpg on the return trip. Imagine going from SLT to Placerville on a gallon of gas. Hybrids can't do that, but I will try this week in a Prius. I don't know where the EPA got its ratings for the ECO, but it easily averaged 8 mpg better (maybe they left the emergency brake on). And there is so much more to talk about.

Performance with that little 128 hp at 5,500 rpm and 156 pounds of twist engine from 1,400-3,700 rpm engine is astounding. No it's not a dragster, but it out performed a regular Elantra with a 2.0L, 147 hp engine by a full second to 60 mph with a run of 7.85 seconds. And that's with a bit of turbo lag. Passing performance is also near the top of its class with a 50-70 mph time 4.71 seconds and the same run up a six percent grade slowing that time to a very good 6.69 seconds. This Eco really scoots while returning hybrid fuel economy. The slowest thing about the Eco is the downward movement of the fuel gauge indicator.



Specifications

Price \$17,150 to \$27,710

Engine

1.4L 16 valve, DOHC,
turbocharged inline four 128
hp @ 5,200 rpm, 156 lb.-ft.
of torque at 1,400-3,700 rpm

Transmission

Seven speed dual clutch
automated manual

Configuration

Transverse mounted front
engine/front wheel drive

Dimensions

Wheelbase 106.3 inches

Length 179.9 inches

Width 70.9 inches

Height 56.5 inches

Track (f/r) 61.5/61.9 inches

Ground clearance 5.3 inches

Fuel capacity 14.0 gallons

Trunk capacity 14.4 cubic
feet

Passenger cabin volume 95.8
cubic feet

Weight 2,857 pounds

GVWR 3,880

Steering lock to lock 2.7
turns

Turning circle 34.8 feet

Wheels 15 inch alloys

Tires 195/65/15

Coefficient of drag 0.27

Performance

0-60 mph 7.85 seconds

50-70 mph 4.71 seconds

50-70 uphill 6.69 seconds

Top speed Well into triple
digits

Fuel economy EPA rated at
32/40/35 mpg
city/highway/combined.
Expect 40-42 mpg in rural
country driving with some
stop and go. 50 plus mpg on
the highway at legal speeds.

Using the same underpinnings as the standard Elantra, meaning MacPherson struts up front and a semi-independent torsion beam in the rear, an electric power rack providing quick steering of 2.7 turns lock to lock, a more rigid chassis using advanced high strength steel and coils and gas shocks in all our corners, this most economical of Elantras will not disappoint in changing directs. It also has a curb weight of just 2,857 pounds combined with a GVWR of 3,880 giving the new Eco a payload of over 1,000 pounds.

While given nimble credentials, don't expect the Eco to be a sports car as it comes with standard 15 inch wheels and skinnier and taller 195/65/15-inch rubber. There should be options to improve those to 16 or 17 inches and 215mm width tires. But notwithstanding its small and minor deficiencies, the Eco is still an adept handler and changes directions as well as other compacts in its class.

Now to more good stuff. This Eco is extremely smooth and quiet. It was noticeable on my first drive, that's how apparent it is. Even with that small engine, it still runs at a low 2,200 rpm at 70 mph. There is no road and/or wind noise. The benefit of those taller tires is a quality ride absorbing the smallest of road imperfections along with the biggest bumps with no float. This car is amazing.

Safety is also not compromised. Braking is strong even with standard 11-inch ventilated discs in front and 8-inch drums in the rear. Many manufacturers of lighter compacts also come standard with small rear drum brakes as the front brakes do 80

percent of the stopping. An alphabet soup of safety acronyms is standard such as ABS, ESC, TC, EBD and more. Seven airbags are standard and things like blind spot detection, rear cross traffic alert (standard), lane departure warning, lane keep assist and more are available.

Inside is a comfortable interior with good seats and a clear instrument panel with a big tach and speedo separated by a center information center/trip computer so you can see your astounding fuel economy for yourself. The center stack is intuitive and easy to operate. No college degree required. It has the same mid-size car interior as all the other Elantra models, big. And don't think everything on the inside is hard plastic, it's not. Soft touch does abound and the seating materials are quite nice. Nothing cheap about this car.

Now for the *piece d'resistance*, the sticker price of this Eco was just \$20,650 plus \$835 for the train ride from Montgomery, Ala. My tester had no options except for the obligatory floor mats for \$125 (my tester's total was \$21,610). But there are plenty of packages available including all the safety stuff mentioned above. But standard equipment on this \$21K Elantra Eco includes blind spot detection, rear cross traffic alert, rearview camera and even heated front seats. The base Eco is very well equipped making it a real deal (power windows, mirrors, great radio SiriusXM, etc., all standard). It is not a cheap car, but a cheap price. The Eco is a much more sensible purchase than any hybrid and has substantially better performance, almost the same fuel economy and costs substantially less. It may be the best value is a new car today. And then there is the standard 10-year/100,000-mile warranty.

Larry Weitzman has been into cars since he was 5 years old. At 8 he could recite from memory the hp of every car made in the U.S. He has put in thousands of laps on racetracks all over the Western United States.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Tonya

Tonya is a 1-year-old Papillon mix who weighs about 9 pounds. She is great with other dogs and cats, and is house trained if she gets let out often enough. Tonya is a bit subdued in the shelter, but she is very affectionate and her personality would shine in a new home.

Tonya is spayed, microchipped, tested for heart worm, and vaccinated. She is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes. Go to the Tahoe animal shelter's Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

Riddle: Preparing for this his whole life

Publisher's note: *Lake Tahoe News asked candidates for South Lake Tahoe City Council, Lake Tahoe Community College, Lake Tahoe Unified School District, Douglas County School District, South Tahoe Public Utility District and Lake Valley Fire Protection District a series of questions. We are running the responses in the order received. All profiles may be found under the Special Projects listing and then the 2106 November Candidate Profiles category.*



Trey Riddle is running for one of two seats on the South Lake Tahoe City Council.

Name: Harold "Trey" Thomas Riddle III

Age: 38

Job/profession: Bar manager

What boards, commissions, or other experience, including volunteering, do you have?: My wife and I have spent the last few years settling into South Lake Tahoe after moving here from Hermosa Beach, where we were small business owners and active members of the Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Why are you running for City Council?: We can do better.

Why should voters vote for you over another candidate?: Voters shouldn't vote for me over another candidate. A voter should vote for me because they feel my views as a whole align with theirs and that I would be their voice on the City Council.

What distinct experience or competency makes you uniquely qualified to lead effectively as an elected official?: I've always naturally gravitated toward leadership roles. From team sports to work environments, I have vast experience as a leader. I lead by example, and I believe a true leader is there to serve others. Others are not there to serve the leader.

Public agencies have been under scrutiny the last few years for lack of transparency and accountability. What will you do to ensure both?: I think we should investigate the possibility of merging some of the many agencies in Tahoe and ensure that all meetings held by these agencies are open to the public.

What stands out for you in the current budget that you support and that you would change?: The largest revenue sources for the general fund are property taxes and transient occupancy taxes (TOT), both being at 19 percent. I like that a strong portion of the city's budget comes from outside the city. I would like to keep it that way, and look for ways to increase that percentage (Measure P, if it passes, is a special use tax so it won't go into the General Fund. If it fails to pass, I would consider amending it for the next ballot so that it goes into the general fund and only requires a simple majority for approval).

Nearly two-thirds of our city's general fund is spent on personnel; salaries, pensions, health care and other benefit costs. Police services comprise the largest share of the costs at 25 percent of the annual budget. Fire safety is a distant second at almost half of that. I believe we can reduce those costs and create more money for other community improvement projects by reducing overtime for police personnel and increasing volunteer patrols such as the STAR program.

Do you support current legislation for \$15 minimum wage?

Please explain: Yes. In fact I believe the minimum wage for South Lake Tahoe residents should always be 20 percent more than whatever the California minimum wage is at any given moment. I feel this way because we are a town that runs on tourism, which makes us unlike other towns. We're not just moving money back and forth between our own residents; we have a large influx of money from outside of our city. The people who bring this money in also put a heavier burden on our infrastructure which our residents must pay for, and they also force businesses to hire more people in the busy seasons than they can support in the off season, so our residents face layoffs and reduced hours in the shoulder seasons. A lot of businesses are all too happy to charge higher than average prices for this destination location, but they don't bother sharing that money with the people who make this town function. We can do better than the California bare minimum.

Do you support Proposition 55? Please explain: No. Higher income taxes are not the answer. When a government is irresponsible with the money it's been given, you don't respond by giving it more money.

Describe three attributes for a successful council: Open ears, open minds, and the willingness to compromise.

What are your thoughts about public employee defined benefits?: I wish every worker, public or private, could retire at 50 and receive 3 percent of their salary for every

year they've worked, but that's not sustainable. I think we should honor the agreement we've already made with the current public employees and make some adjustments for new employees.

Please explain your position regarding contracting out work normally done by staff: People should do the jobs they've been hired to do.

What is your 10-year vision for South Lake Tahoe?: I would like to see the revitalization of South Lake Tahoe, with fresher, more homogeneous building facades and a well thought out and completed infrastructure that encourages an active and healthy lifestyle among its residents and guests alike.

What one vote in the last four years that the current council made do you disagree with and why?: One of the most recent votes, and that was the one to eliminate VHRs on multi-unit properties. Whether we like it or not, VHRs are vital to the success of this city. VHR owners contribute to the largest sources of revenue for the city's general fund. Those are property taxes and TOT. Together they comprise 38 percent of the General Fund revenue. You can read more about my opinion on VHR's below and how we should treat them in relation to other property types. The reason I disagree with City Council's decision to ban any new VHRs on multi-unit properties specifically is because this is the only way some people can afford to own their own home. They live in one unit and have to vacation rent the other side. The City Council talks about affordable housing and then in the same breath turns around and eliminates the only chance some families have at owning their own place and maybe even gaining a little financial independence. It's hypocritical.

How many City Council meetings have you attended this year?: I watch all of the City Council meetings online and I encourage every resident to do the same if they can't make it there in person. Just go to www.cityofslt.us and roll over the government tab, then roll over City Council in the drop down

box and click on Watch Council Meetings. There you can watch all of the council meetings as far back as 2007.

What do you know about the strategic plan, finances, debt, and goals of the city?: You don't have to read beyond the first sentence of the strategic plan to know all you need to know about it. It refers to the residents of South Lake Tahoe as the city's "customers." The City needs to get one thing straight; in business parlance the residents of South Lake Tahoe are not "customers." The residents of South Lake Tahoe are "the boss."

Being on the council means working as a team. How will you work with the sitting members for the greater good of the community?: I'll compromise where I can. Where I can't, I won't.

What should be the three main priorities for the council?: The residents of South Lake Tahoe should always be the main priority, meaning we should take care of our neighborhoods first, then invest money in the tourist areas. Second, City Council should foster positive growth by making it easier for the private sector to grow South Lake Tahoe, then fill in the gaps with government funded improvements. Third we should investigate merging some of the many agencies in Tahoe to cut down on all of the red tape that has been preventing positive growth.

What have you done to make yourself ready to be a council member?: I've been preparing for this my whole life.

What role should government have in housing for residents?: None, directly. There's a lot of chatter about affordable housing. When I hear "affordable housing," I hear "let's round up all the poor people and stick them in one spot." The only role the government should play in housing is making sure that local residents are paid a fair wage and can afford housing that already exists. Then we wouldn't be spending tax dollars

on housing projects and residents would be able to buy more luxury items thereby generating more revenue for the city in sales tax dollars instead of costing the city money in project housing.

How can the city partner with the school district to improve high school graduation rates?: That's something that needs to take place in the home. The city can monitor test scores and evaluate teacher performance, but if parents aren't teaching their kids the importance of education, none of that really matters.

How can local government support and expand job creation and small local businesses?: We need to refine the whole process when it comes to entrepreneurs trying to start a new business. All of the rules and regulations that have been put in place to try to improve the South Shore have had the opposite effect and they're choking the life out of our city. Everything is so cost prohibitive that people can't afford to create their own startups here. So, our highway is littered with old outdated motels and dilapidated buildings instead of fresh new job-creating businesses.

If you believe in the one South Shore concept, what would you do to further make this a reality? If you don't believe in blurring the state line, why don't you?: We are one city divided by a state line. We share common interests. We're neighbors. It's important for us to work together as such. But, I also feel we need to get our own affairs in order before we start meddling in our neighbor's business.

What are your views on:

a: Vacation home rentals: I feel that a person's house is their domain. When someone purchases a home it comes with what's known as a homeowner's bundle of rights. One of those rights is the right of disposition. This means that the owner has the right to sell or rent their property at will.

I am aware that some residents take issue with vacation home rentals (VHRs), and the issues can sometimes stem from real problems, but I don't believe it's fair to say all VHRs cause problems or that it's solely VHRs that cause problems in our neighborhoods. We all have neighbors that are long-term renters or even homeowner occupied that generate as much if not more noise, more trash or more parking issues than the VHR's.

City Council should not be singling out VHRs when it comes to policymaking. If a VHRs spa jets are loud after 10pm are long-term renters' and homeowner occupied spa jets not equally loud? If a long-term renter or homeowner occupied unit has three cars in the yard and two illegally parked on the street is it not equally if not more burdensome than a VHR that's typically occupied only 25% of the time?

If City Council is going to regulate these issues, they need to do it equally for all homeowners and hold everyone accountable for violations, not just VHRs.

I believe we can make our neighborhoods more pleasant with increased STAR patrols and stiffer penalties for infractions by VHRs, long-term renters, and homeowner occupied units alike, without singling out any one type of homeowner.

b: Loop road: I support democracy. Let the residents decide.

c: City streets: They're not safe for pedestrians or cyclists. Addressing this will be my number one priority on the council.

d: Relationships with other public agencies: Interagency cooperation is essential to progress.

e: Recreation: I love recreation. I recreate as much as possible. We should encourage more people to do it. I feel making our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists is a great way to do that.

f. TRPA defined commodities: TRPA defined commodities are just one more thing getting in the way of positive growth.

g. Transient occupancy tax measure: I am voting yes on the transient tax increase. I feel tourists should share more of the burden they place on our infrastructure. The only thing I would have done differently is to have it go into the General Fund instead of being designated solely for recreation.

h. Sales tax measure: I am 100 percent against a sales tax increase. Sales taxes are a regressive tax that take a larger percentage from low-income individuals than high-income individuals, so it hits lower-income people harder. Here we are going on about affordable housing, then we turn around and try to raise taxes on the lowest-income people in the city. We can do better.

i. What do you want the additional sales tax money to go to?:
N/A

Tell us something about yourself that people may not know:
Anyone who knows me knows I'm a new dad. Even if we just met. I can't stop talking about my 6-week-old son, Hank. He's by far the coolest thing I've ever done with my life.

Something people may not know about me though is my first brush with Tahoe. In college I was captain of the cross country team, and president of the student government and Herodotus Society, but I couldn't help but feel there was something missing. Then my counselor suggested I join one of the school's community service organizations. So I did, and immediately became more fulfilled. In 2001 I had the honor of riding my bike with the Journey of Hope team over 4,000 miles from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., to raise funds and awareness for children with disabilities. On one night of our 72-day adventure we stayed at Kirkwood after a full day of climbing. It was without a doubt one of the toughest legs of the journey. I grabbed a Kirkwood sticker and put it on my

bike frame as if it were a trophy. It was one of the two stickers that I put on it throughout the whole trip. The other was from Roswell, N.M., of course. I still ride that same road bike with my trophy Kirkwood sticker on it. When I put that sticker on there, I had no clue I would wind up some day living in Tahoe and riding Kirkwood on my snowboard every winter. It's funny how things happen like that, almost like it was fate.

Proceeds from celeb golf going to Tahoe charities

As a result of the 27th American Century Championship celebrity golf tournament, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority has nearly \$52,000 to give out to South Shore nonprofits.

Groups must meet 501(c)3 certified nonprofit guidelines, provide an outline of their mission, describe how the donation will be used and indicate impact in the community, and be located on the South Shore. The application is available **online** under Community News. The deadline is noon Oct. 24.

Recipients will be presented with checks at the LTVA board meeting on Nov. 10.

The LTVA in partnership with NBC Sports and American Century Investments, previously directed an additional \$62,000 through on-site volunteer organizations and other efforts during the July tournament to area high schools, Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe, South Lake Tahoe Booster Club, Tahoe Fund and the Gene Upshaw Scholarship.

Made in Nevada label promotes state businesses

By Alex Soeth, Reno Gazette-Journal

Does your business have a product made in Nevada? If so, the Nevada Small Business Development Center would like to help you spread its awareness.

Made in Nevada, managed by the Nevada SBDC, is a nonprofit marketing and branding initiative that has proudly promoted Nevada-made products for more than 25 years. This program, a champion for Nevada-based manufacturers and artisans, is designed to promote goods that are grown, created, made or enhanced more than 51 percent in Nevada. The program encourages members of the community to support local businesses, which is vital to Nevada's economy.

Made in Nevada represents small businesses as well as multiple manufacturing subsectors across the state. A membership with Made in Nevada allows businesses to promote their goods with the Made in Nevada logo, letting buyers know they are purchasing locally sourced products.

Read the whole story

Zika virus basics and

prevention techniques

By Clare Rudolph

Since the mosquito-borne illness known as Zika virus first made headlines in 2015, panic has spread more quickly than the disease itself. Here are some facts about this emerging illness.

What is Zika virus?



Clare Rudolph

A relative of dengue, yellow fever, and West Nile, the Zika virus first appeared in Uganda in 1947. Most infections cause only a mild illness. However, women infected with the Zika virus while pregnant may have babies with microcephaly, a birth defect involving an abnormally small head and problems with brain development.

How does it spread?

Mosquitoes distribute the disease when they bite an infected person, and then bite another person without the virus. Mothers can also pass it to children during pregnancy and birth. Doctors have now documented cases spread through sexual contact as well.

Who's at risk?

Anyone who travels to affected countries can contract the disease from an infected mosquito. Go **online** for the latest

list. Doctors believe sexual transmission can occur before, during, after, and even in the absence of symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

Only about 20 percent of people infected with Zika virus become sick. Those who do typically have mild symptoms, including:

- Fever
- Rash
- Joint or muscle pain
- Headache
- Red eyes

Signs can last from several days to a week. Most people don't feel bad enough to go to the hospital. That means many recover without knowing which virus infected them.

Some evidence also links Zika to a rare neurological condition called Guillain-Barré syndrome. Signs of this illness include weakness in muscles of the arms, legs, and face.

How can I protect my family and myself?

For now, Florida is the only place in the U.S. where Zika has been transmitted by a mosquito. All other cases have been related to travel or were sexually transmitted.

Right now, Zika virus disease has no treatment or vaccine. However, you can still take steps to stay safe. Start by preventing mosquito bites, especially when you travel. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants, sleep indoors or under a mosquito net, and use insect repellants registered by the Environmental Protection Agency (find details **online**).

Take extra precautions when pregnant. Avoid traveling to areas

where Zika is spreading. If your partner has lived in or traveled to an area with Zika, either abstain from sex or use condoms. If you're pregnant and have recently traveled to a Zika-infected country, check in with your doctor, even if you feel fine. Right now, doctors are working hard to understand the link between Zika virus and microcephaly. Your story will help others understand the risks—and what to do about Zika.

Clare Rudolph recently joined the OB-GYN physician team at Barton Women's Health.

Sheehan: Leading by example, hard work

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Kelly Sheehan is running for

one of two seats on the
South Tahoe PUD board.

Name: Kelly Sheehan

Age: 58

Job/profession: Owner/manager Steamers Bar & Grill

What boards, commissions, or other experience, including volunteering, do you have?: I served two terms on the St. Theresa school board, two terms St. Theresa Pastoral Council and am currently on the St Theresa Parish Finance Committee. I am currently the vice president of the board of directors at the district, as well as the board's alternate representative to the El Dorado County Water Agency.

Why are you seeking re-election to the South Tahoe PUD board?: I have gained so much knowledge these past four-plus years, leading me to believe I still have much to offer as a board member.

Why should voters vote for you over another candidate?: I have no personal agenda and base my decisions on what is best for the district and its customers.

What distinct experience or competency makes you uniquely qualified to lead effectively as an elected official?: I have been in management for most of my adult life. I have always tried to lead by example and hard work. Objectivity is one of my best traits.

Public agencies have been under scrutiny the last few years for lack of transparency and accountability. What will you do to ensure both?: The district has policies and procedures in place to ensure transparency. I, along with fellow board members and staff, have just completed ethics training. The district and its board are always mindful of the importance of transparency.

What stands out for you in the current budget that you support and that you would change?: The district is on a good path with the budget and long term planning. Staff has done an excellent job of prioritizing projects. It is definitely a balancing act to keep rates reasonable without ignoring the infrastructure. I would not change this direction.

Do you support current legislation for \$15 minimum wage? Please explain: I struggle with the \$15 minimum wage as I am in an industry where the employees receive gratuities. As a small business owner, payroll is always one of your largest expenses. Someone, most likely the consumer, is going to have to help shoulder that cost. But I am a firm believer in a fair, living wage.

Do you support Proposition 55? Please explain: Yes, especially for the benefit to K-12 and community college education.

Describe three attributes for a successful board: Respect for your fellow board members, even when you may disagree with them.

Objectivity: making decisions based upon what is best for the district and all of its customers, leaving your personal feelings and benefits aside.

Preparedness: do your homework and make informed decisions.

By the way, I feel our current board has all of the above attributes.

What are your thoughts about public employee defined benefits?: There has been such a large shift between the benefits of public and private sector employees in the last 40 years for multiple reasons. I feel the most important thing about public employee benefits is that they don't become an unfunded liability.

Please explain your position on contracting out work normally done by staff: This something that is done for various reasons, most importantly efficiency and cost effectiveness. I

have no problem with this practice as long as those are the factors considered.

What is your 10-year vision for STPUD?: To continue to provide clean and safe drinking water, as well as environmentally responsible wastewater collection, treatment, and export for our community in a financially responsible manner.

What as an elected official are the three things you are most proud of during your tenure?: I don't know that I can name three specific things. But, I know that I have strived to handle myself in a gracious and adult manner even when being publicly criticized for decisions I have made. This was hard for me. By nature, I tend to be a people pleaser, I want everyone to be happy. But I know that cannot always be the case. I have based every decision made since being a board member on fact and the good of the district and its customers, whom I represent. I have never made a decision based on what would be easiest and most beneficial for myself.

Which votes would you change and why?: I would not change a vote.

Being on a board means working as a team. How will you work with the other board members for the greater good of the community?: I will continue to listen and be prepared, I will respect my fellow board members' opinions, while ultimately basing my decisions on fact, the good of the district and its customers.

What should be the three main priorities for the board?: 1.) Provide clean and safe drinking water.
2.) Provide environmentally responsible wastewater collection, treatment, and export.
3.) Make sure our infrastructure is able to provide protection against the devastation of forest fires.
Further to achieve all of the above in a fiscally responsible manner.

How do you balance the economic situation of the community with the infrastructure needs of the district?: As I have said before, this is a balancing act. We need to be sensitive to our local economy, but realize the infrastructure ages regardless. We can't ignore the infrastructure. But, we need to explore every funding source, such as state and federal grants in an effort to keep our rates affordable.

STPUD is often criticized for having some of the highest paid public employees on the South Shore. Any comment?: It takes a significant responsibility and skill to maintain the district's systems, especially in Lake Tahoe's sensitive environment. We need to be able to attract and maintain a skilled work force. This is not to say that we should not ask for exceptional performance in return for one of the best local public compensation packages.

When it comes to permits for construction, the district has high fees. Do you believe they are fair? Why or why not?: I think they are bit high. I would like to see the board do some research and perhaps consider more affordable options.

Tell us something about yourself that people may not know: I am actually quite shy. Speaking in public is hard for me. I tend to get tongue tied around people I do not know and am not comfortable with. Once I do feel comfortable though, this all changes.

Lively questions addressed in Nev. gaming law book

By Richard N. Velotta, Las Vegas Review-Journal



Greg Giordano

What kind of paperwork do I have to file to go to work in a casino?

How bad do I have to be to be listed in Nevada's "black book?"
And what the heck is the "gray list?"

Those are some of the questions answered in the new edition of the "Nevada Gaming Law Practice and Procedure Manual," unveiled last month in a reception during a gaming law conference at UNLV.

Greg Giordano, a gaming attorney with the McDonald Carano Wilson law firm, was the chief editor for the book, published by the State Bar of Nevada Publications Department and the Gaming Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada, but the 19 authors are an all-star team of practicing gaming lawyers.

Read the whole story

Steve Myers – 1921-2016



Steve Myers

Steve Myers, the builder of the old drive-in theater in South Lake Tahoe and one time owner of Echo Summit Ski Area, died June 24, 2016. He was 94.

Steve was born July 7, 1921, in Minneapolis to Frank Colby Myers and Mildred Dyer Myers. The family soon moved to Oakland.

Steve graduated from UC Berkeley in 1942. He then joined the military, what with the U.S. having entered World War II. Steve served with the 101st Airborne Division over Utah Beach in the invasion of Europe and over Holland. He transferred to the 501st Parachute Infantry where he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Steve moved to South Lake Tahoe in 1947 and built the Tahoe Drive-In Theatre. Owning the theater was a summer job for Steve, allowing him in the winter to attend Stanford University where he earned his MBA. This is where he met Jean Thayer. They were married in 1953.

Jean had never seen it snow before, however, with their purchase in 1957 of the Echo Summit Ski Area that would change.

In 1962 they cast an even wider business model and began to get involved in retail stores in the state line area. In 1970 they sold the ski area and theatre and dove head first into their growing retail business.

They moved to Fairfield for health reasons.

Jean Myers died on April 5, 2008.

The Myers Trust, administered on their behalf by the El Dorado Community Foundation, will provide an ongoing financial support for learning and exploration for generations of South Lake Tahoe residents for years to come.

There will be a celebration of life on Oct. 22 at 2pm at Chapel of Flowers, Cherokee Memorial Park in Lodi. RSVP to tahoenum@gmail.com or call the El Dorado Community Foundation at 530.622.5621.

Free genetic testing for Northern Nevadans

By Pashtana Usufzy, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Free genetic testing is being offered to 5,000 Northern Nevadans as part of a public-private collaboration intended to assess how factors like genetics and environment affect overall population health.

Health care network Renown Health, California-based personal genetics company 23andMe and the Desert Research Institute (DRI) – an environmental research hub that's part of the Nevada System of Higher Education – will partner on the pilot study, according to a DRI news release.

Read the whole story