

Forum at UNR on sexual consent

Sexual conduct and how to receive consent is the topic of a campaign being launched at UNR.

With national attention addressing sexual assault on college campuses, the university wants to be part of the dialogue to ensure all students, faculty and staff create a safe, respectful and welcoming campus environment.

Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., will discuss the Campus Accountability and Safety Act tonight from 6-8pm at the Joe Crowley Student Union, Milt Glick Ballroom C, at UNR.

Alison Gaulden, Reynolds School of Journalism faculty and former Planned Parenthood lobbyist, will talk to students about the role sexual education plays in social and reproductive justice. Tory Clark, certified clinical sexologist and adjunct faculty member at the university, will discuss issues pertaining to culture and gender equality.

Representatives from the Office of Student Conduct, University Counseling Services, Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX and the Crisis Call Center will also be on hand offering students information about their services.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets in South Lake Tahoe



Alice

Alice is one of three puppies still at the shelter. Mom is also awaiting her new home. She is a Shiba Inu mix, the puppies' dad hopped the fence.

All are used to other dogs and kids, and chase squirrels and birds so they would do best in homes without small animals or kittens. Mom, Carol, needs a cat-free home.

Alice is spayed, microchipped, tested for heartworm, 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

Fundraiser to help man hurt in dirt bike accident



Matthew Marhefka

On Aug. 26 local resident Matthew Marhefka was in a serious dirt bike accident on Powerline Trail. He shattered three vertebrae and is paralyzed from the neck down.

Even after a successful surgery to stabilize his spine, he is a quadriplegic.

Marhefka spent seven weeks in the trauma ICU at Renown Medical Center in Reno battling pneumonia and breathing complications. With his lungs now clear and getting stronger, he was flown to Santa Clara Valley Medical Rehabilitation Center to begin a six-week program that will help him cope with this life changing injury and to begin learning how to live the rest of his life.

Family and friends will be hosting a fundraiser with live music from Molly Mae Dellalo and South Shore Riot, a raffle and silent auction, as well as a portion of the Classic Cue's proceeds that day being donated into Marhefka's trust. All money raised will go directly to his for home modification and equipment.

The fundraiser is Nov. 1 from 1-4pm at Classic Cue, 1965 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite B, South Lake Tahoe.

Donations can also be made directly at any US Bank branch to the Matthew Marhefka Benefit Account.

For more info, call Jessica Knab-Irish at 530.307.2530 or Jason Fenley at 530.318.6557.

Warren Miller movie coming to S. Shore

“No Turning Back”, the latest ski and snowboard film from Warren Miller Entertainment, is coming to Harrah’s Lake Tahoe on Nov. 7-8.

The film crew goes from powder in Niseko, Japan, to the top of Greece’s Mount Olympus, to new corners of the French Alps, mom and pop hills in Montana to ride and the fjords of Norway.

See Ingrid Backstrom and Jess McMillan push women’s big mountain skiing to the edge of Alaska’s Chugach; watch Ted Ligety and the U.S. Ski Team tame the Birds Of Prey World Cup course in Beaver Creek, and witness JT Holmes and Ueli Kestenholz tackle extreme lines off the Swiss Alps.

Show time is 7pm. The \$16 tickets are available online, Sports LTD in South Lake Tahoe and at the South Shore Room box office.

'The Judge' – near perfect story, acting

By Jeremy Miller

Finally! I've waited for what feels like an eternity for something that really amazed me in theaters. Not since "Guardians" have I truly been blown away, until now.

Unsuspecting director David Dobkin ("Wedding Crashers," "The Change-Up") was behind the camera while Nick Schenk (Gran Torino) and Bill Dubuque manned the screenplay for "The Judge". Right there you've got a pretty sure-fire recipe for success.

Hotshot lawyer Hank Palmer (Robert Downey Jr.) returns to his childhood hometown of Carlinville, Ind., when he received word that his mother passed. He's met by brothers Glen (Vincet D'Onofrio) and Dale (Jeremy Strong) and immediately you feel some seriously haunting backstory lingering.



The Miller Meter – 4.5
starts out of 5.

The most dominant conflict was between Hank and his father, the reputable Judge Joseph Palmer (Robert Duvall). Hank had obviously been excommunicated by the family for reasons untold until the very end (sorry, no spoilers). What Hank intended to be a cameo appearance turned into an obligatory extended stay when he received word that the Judge was suspected of



murder.

In addition to the familial conflict Hank is trying to get a hold on, he's met with some serious sexual conflict when he runs into his high school sweetheart Samantha played by the illustrious Vera Farmiga.

After long bouts of father vs. son, Hank finally convinces the Judge to let him represent him in court. Hank's reputation and success rate lead him to believe it'll be a quick case, but he's proved wrong when he meets the opposition in the form of Dwight Dickham (Billy Bob Thornton) who's got a personal bone to pick with Hank due to Dwight's commitment to riding the right side of the law.

The rest of the flick is pure suspense in the courtroom mixed with sexual tension and familial conflict and revelation. Simply put, I've been waiting for this movie for a long time. The summer provided a couple big blockbusters, but nothing in the emotionally powerful department. This movie on the other hand was an absolute powerhouse. From start to finish I felt blown away by the characters and the story they told.



Robert Duvall brought so much electricity to this film I could barely take it, as did every member of the supporting cast. Robert Downey Jr. expectedly stole the show. His performance was hands-down the best of his career. I've never seen him so play as passionate a character.

For about the first 30 minutes I was genuinely concerned that RDJ was cast simply because Hank is a high power, filthy rich, makes every man jealous kinda guy, and I've seen him play that

part for too long to see it again, especially outside of the Marvel Universe. Almost as quickly as I assumed that's how it would be, he turned it around. He played a vulnerable, flawed, average honest guy that I've always wanted to see him play, and he did it better than I've seen in longer than I can remember.

The chemistry between RDJ and Duvall was nothing short of spectacular and tore my heart into pieces throughout. Overall, the film hits home with anyone and everyone who's had familial conflict, and for that reason I was completely captivated by it. My only hesitation from giving this thing a five was that for a few split seconds it got too cheesy and took away from the script's believability, but like I said, they were seconds. A perfect story backed by a perfect screenplay, presented with flawless acting and given to us with top notch directing lands this puppy a 4.5 on the meter.

South Lake Tahoe resident Jeremy Miller has more movie reviews [online](#).

Lake Tahoe Forest Service chief retiring



Nancy Gibson is retiring from the U.S. Forest Service in January. Photo/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

Relationships and collaboration are what have allowed Nancy Gibson to accomplish things her predecessors have not always been able to do.

While she has not done everything she has wanted, the forest supervisor of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit knows the job could never completely be done. Such are the hazards of managing one of the more complex forests in the United States.

Gibson took over the top job with the local Forest Service office in March 2011. She will retire Jan. 3, 2015, after 37 years with the agency. This is Gibson's second stint in Tahoe. She was on temporary assignment to LTBMU as deputy supervisor from November 2006 to March 2007.

But she's not going anywhere. She and her husband built a house in Meyers that they moved into last year. She plans to take the advice of friends to learn to say "no" and not do too much the first year other than have fun. Her husband has been retired for six years, so she knew it was time for her to do the same.

During her tenure with the agency she has seen many changes.

"This evolution of forestry, national resource management and science coming together to better synthesize all disciplines has been pretty remarkable," Gibson told *Lake Tahoe News*. "It's getting back to our roots, but also reinventing ourselves as a conservation agency."

Fifty years ago no one talked about climate change. Now it's an integral part of nearly every decision regarding the forest.

Lake Tahoe is unique in many ways. It is the only forest with urban lots. (There are 3,500 scattered throughout the 155,000 acres. Seventy-eight percent of the land in the basin is managed by the USFS.)

What she'd like to do is teach tourists that dumping ashes from their vacation rental into the empty Forest Service lot next door is how wildland fires are started. It's a problem her counterparts in other jurisdictions don't have to deal with.

Fire is a huge part of this office – which is unusual for a forest supervisor's headquarters. Initial attacks are more the work of ranger stations. Not so here.

Gibson says the work of the basin fire chiefs group is beneficial to the area in terms of fuels reduction and firefighting efforts.

Having the hotshot crew become certified this year points to the significant role firefighters have in Tahoe.

Normally the more acreage a forest has, the more complex it is. Not so with Tahoe. Size-wise, this is a small forest. Issues-wise it is huge. Most forests are in one state, and if it does go into another, it usually isn't of much consequence.



TRPA chief Joanne Marchetta
and LTBMU head Nancy Gibson
at the 2014 Lake Tahoe
Environmental Summit.
Photo/Kathryn Reed

Also unique to Tahoe is the role of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency – another federal agency. That relationship has become more amicable through the years.

When Gibson arrived the hostility between the USFS and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board was palpable. That animosity evaporated with the leadership change at both organizations; which in turn filtered down to the rank and file employees.

“If we don’t have relationships, we don’t have the desired outcomes,” Gibson said.

Being able to work with her peers from other agencies has helped the USFS accomplish its goals. This is a new era in the basin where people are working together and being less territorial.

“All the players rely on each other to keep this environment sound,” Gibson said.

In a one-on-one with *LTN*, Gibson repeatedly spoke of the need to balance environmental, ecological and social concerns when it comes to making land management decisions.

When she arrived in Tahoe the discussions all focused on water. She helped change that so conversations center on forests. She said a holistic approach needs to be used when managing lands. Gibson pointed to how managing the uplands will ensure water clarity downstream.

Gibson's employees are dealing with a forest that has more visitors per acre than any other forest in the United States.

When she got here there was no cohesive approach to dealing with Fourth of July, even though many visitors are spending time on a Forest Service beach. And it's the busiest day of the year in the basin. It wasn't until 2013 that the incident command system was put into place.

"Before we didn't know where our employees were at all times," Gibson said.

She has spent every July 4 in the field to witness what her employees are contending with.



Nancy Gibson plants trees
at Lake Tahoe.
Photo/Provided

She is proud to be at the helm as work on the Forest Service's reach of the Upper Truckee River started after having been in

the planning stages for years. Implementation of the 10,000-acre South Shore Fuels Reduction project is another accomplishment.

While she had hoped the Zephyr fire lookout would have been moved to White Hill on Spooner Summit during her watch, that is doubtful because of an ownership dispute. Gibson said the Forest Service has documentation that the feds are the rightful owner. She is hoping for an amicable resolution so the lookout will be accessible to the public.

She also would have liked for the Forest Plan to be in place. That isn't likely to happen until 2015 after she has moved on.

Gibson's eyes light up when she speaks of continuing the work started with Generation Green, the youth program, and other times in her career when she has helped young people succeed and communities move forward. She can see doing something along those lines in retirement.

A replacement for Gibson has not been named. She's hoping the next supervisor will be on board before she turns in her Forest Service greens for civilian clothing so she can introduce that person to the players in the basin, explain some of the nuances of the job and ease the transition into this unique forest.

Then it will be time for her to spend time with her two children, other family in Arizona and Montana, friends, as well as appreciate the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit from an entirely different perspective. While the demands of work only allow her to get out in the woods about one weekend a month, she plans see more of it after the first of the year.

Series of classes for caregivers in SLT

There will be a six-week series of classes in South Lake Tahoe designed to provide instruction and support for caregivers who are or are planning to care for a family member or friend age 60 or older.

All classes and materials are free, though donations are accepted.

Classes will be from 1-3pm at Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel.

Oct. 20: Disaster Preparedness Planning for Family Caregivers taught by Michelle Patterson and Leona Allen.

Oct. 27: Coping with Grief and Loss taught by Rebecca Phillipsen.

Nov. 3: Techniques for Maintaining Healthy Skin with Karen Wilson and Sebastian Combes.

Nov. 10: The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease with Jacob Harmon.

Nov. 17: Senior Legal Services info from Diana Steele.

Nov. 24: The Basics and Beyond of Medi-Cal and Medicare with representatives from HHSA and HICAP.

To register, call 530.621.6369.

Douglas County manager ready to lead



Jim Nichols began his tenure as Douglas County manager on Sept. 29. Photo/Provided

Jim Nichols is finishing his third week as manager of Douglas County. He replaces Steve Mokrohisky who left in April for a job in Oregon.

Nichols was one of 72 applicants for the job. Most recently he was assistant city manager for Midland, Texas. He will be making \$172,000 a year.

Lake Tahoe News caught up with him for a quick Q&A.

LTN: Since you are new to Northern Nevada, how do you expect to get up to speed? What few things are you focusing on first – besides learning everyone's name?

Nichols: I am getting up to speed on Northern Nevada in a variety of ways. First, I am relying upon the insight of my staff who are all very familiar with the region. They are informing me of the issues of significance. Our commissioners are also providing me with valuable feedback on the county.

In addition, I am meeting with various community leaders,

stakeholders and county partners to learn their priorities and the needs of the region.

Finally, I am trying to get out into the community so I can meet with residents and see the county firsthand and learn about everything we have to offer.

LTN: What do you see as the biggest problem dividing the lake and the valley, and how do you expect to fix it?

Nichols: I don't really see there being a "problem" dividing the lake and the valley. We are one county and one community all focused on continued prosperity. The only real disconnect between these two distinct parts of our community is distance.

However, as long as we respect and appreciate the unique aspects of each area that make them so important to Douglas County, there really shouldn't be any problem dividing them.

LTN: Water is a growing issue in Nevada now that we just started year four of the drought. At the lake the issues center on potable water and recreation. In the valley potable water and ranching are the issues. What is your approach to managing water and what should be done that isn't being done?

Nichols: I'm still being brought up to speed on the water situation in Douglas County so I don't have all of the information on everything being done to address our current and future water needs. However, having recently worked in Texas during a prolonged drought affords me some perspective on dealing with Douglas County's water situation. Fundamentally, I believe in looking at a community's water from a regional perspective. When we become too focused on only our needs and concerns, we lose sight of potential opportunities and solutions that may exist just outside our borders.

LTN: You were living in Henderson when you moved to Douglas County and were last working in Texas. What were you doing

when you weren't employed, how long were you unemployed and why did you leave that job?

Nichols: Over the past year, I began to pursue executive-level positions that would have been a natural extension and progression in my career. I had served as a deputy-assistant city manager for nine years and was ready to lead an organization. I had advised my city manager of my intentions and had his full support on my career pursuits. However, earlier this year, my job interviews became public knowledge in the community and had the potential of becoming a distraction for my previous employer. Therefore, I decided it was best that I leave for the good of the organization. I left Midland in March with several job opportunities on the horizon. Unfortunately, none of them materialized. I remained in Henderson to oversee a rental property that I still own in the area while seeking a new position. I learned of the Douglas County manager opportunity and applied for it. I feel very fortunate to have been selected and am happy to call Douglas County my new home.

LTN: What in your background points to being to deal with how heavily regulated Lake Tahoe is?

Nichols: My applicable background related to Lake Tahoe goes back to my time as public works director/city engineer of Chehalis, Wash. During my time with the city, the Chehalis River was regulated by a TMDL. During my 5½ years of service with the city of Chehalis, I worked with the state's environmental regulatory agency (DEP) regarding our wastewater treatment plant and specifically our discharge into the Chehalis River. I became well versed in the issues and intricacies associated with total maximum daily loads and feel comfortable in working on the regulatory needs of Lake Tahoe.

LTN: What is your opinion of the proposed realignment of Highway 50 at the lake – better known as the loop road?

Nichols: I am still getting up to speed on the U.S. 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project and feel it would be premature for me to comment on it at this time.

LTN: Suppose you get to seek counsel with five Nevadans (or those who lived in the Silver State at one time) to dinner (living or dead), who would you summon and why?

Nichols: Wow – excellent question. I’ve never been asked that before. I would say that my five Nevadans to dine with would be: Donald Bently (because of the profound impact he’s had on Douglas County); Gov. Brian Sandoval (to learn his vision for the future of Nevada); Snowshoe Thompson (because of the important role he played in the history of Douglas County); Andre Agassi (to learn where he gets his competitive spirit); and Mark Twain (to learn the source of his wit and wisdom).

LTN: You’ve written a couple books, do you think you would write one out of your experiences in county-city manager offices? If so, can we get a sneak peek?

Nichols: Thank you for even taking note of my prior books. I do think a book that looks at city/county management and maybe even compares and contrasts the two would be an interesting subject. If I write another one (which I would love to do, as time allows), I will gladly offer you a sneak preview.

LTN: Where will we find you recreating in Lake Tahoe?

Nichols: I can be found anywhere that has a bike path or hiking trail. I am an avid bicycle enthusiast and hope to be able to take my bike to the lake regularly to enjoy the scenic views. I also enjoy hiking and hope to hike around the lake from time to time.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Artists sought for wildlife stamp contest

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting an art contest to select the design for the state's 2014-15 upland game bird stamp.

The contest is open to all U.S. residents ages 18 and older. Entries will be accepted through Dec. 12. This year's stamp will feature the Gambel's quail, and art contest entries must include at least one Gambel's quail.

Entries will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy and suitability for reproduction as a stamp and a print.

For contest information and entry forms, go [online](#).

Alpinist to give talk in Tahoe City

Alpenglow Sports in Tahoe City presents a unique evening with Simone Moro, the celebrated Italian alpinist renowned for his daring winter ascents of some of the tallest mountains on Earth.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors for his climbing

achievements, Moro is a popular speaker at the Banff Mountain Film and Book Festival. Born in 1967, Moro has been climbing since he was 13. He is the only alpinist to have reached the summit of three 8,000-meter peaks entirely in winter.

Moro also pilots helicopters as part of a high-altitude charter and rescue service in Nepal.

On Oct. 21 he will share his adventurous mountain tales with the Lake Tahoe community. While the 6pm show is free, attendees are encouraged to arrive early for good seating. After the show, Moro will sign copies of his book "The Call of the Ice," his third book and the first to be translated into English by Mountaineers Books.

For additional information, contact Brendan Madigan at Alpenglow Sports 530.583.6917 or brendan@alpenglowsports.com.