

Unique dime minted in Carson City sells for \$1.84 mil.

By Jessica Parks, Philadelphia Inquirer

A one-of-a-kind, pristine-condition 1873 dime fetched \$1.84 million in an auction Thursday night at the American Numismatic Association convention.

“It’s not rare, it’s not scarce – it’s unique. And it’s pretty much immaculate,” said Brian Kendrella, director of operations at the Spectrum Group. He entered the winning bid on behalf of a private collector who sought to remain anonymous.

Before the live auction began, online bids had already reached \$950,000. The price went up in seconds, with bidders in the room, on the phone, and online answering the auctioneer’s calls – \$1 million, \$1.1 million, \$1.2 million, \$1.3 million, \$1.4 million, \$1.5 million. The winning bid was \$1.6 million, plus a 15 percent buyer’s fee.

The coin is the sole survivor of a one-day run of dimes from Carson City, a sparsely populated frontier town whose mints are now highly valued for their rarity and historical significance.

The 1873-CC No Arrows Liberty Seated dime was the keystone coin in the Battle Born Collection, which contained one of every coin minted in Carson City before the facility closed in 1893. All 111 pieces were parceled off Thursday night, fetching a total of \$9.98 million.

Split vote on Raley's contract nullifies it

By Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee

A tentative labor contract at Save Mart Supermarkets was supposed to bring clarity to the labor drama gripping Northern California's supermarket industry.

Instead, it brought more confusion.

The United Food and Commercial Workers announced Wednesday that workers in the Central Valley voted to ratify a two-year contract with the Modesto grocery chain.

But two locals covering the Bay Area rejected the deal with Save Mart, the UFCW said.

A union spokeswoman said the split verdict means the contract won't go into effect.

Read the whole story

Significant improvement to Lake Tahoe's clarity confounds scientists

By Kathryn Reed

Another year of data about Lake Tahoe's clarity provides more confusion for scientists.

"This last year has defied conventional wisdom in many ways," Geoffrey Schladow, director of the UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, said in a statement. "In the past, very wet years have led to decreases in lake clarity, whereas we are now seeing the opposite. This only reinforces the fact that the underlying, driving forces are themselves starting to change."

The "Tahoe: State of the Lake Report 2012" was released Aug. 9 by the Tahoe Environmental Research Center at UC Davis.

Summer clarity of 51.5 feet in 2011 was the second worst on record. Winter clarity of 84.9 feet was an improvement of 11.9 feet. Overall, the 2011 average lake clarity improved 4.5 feet from 2010.

Scientists speculate the winter improvement was from efforts to reduce fine sediment from reaching Lake Tahoe. However, they also stressed that monitoring is the only way to prove that statement.

A Secchi disc, which looks like a white dinner plate, has been used since 1968 to figure out how clear Lake Tahoe is. Researchers drop the disc overboard and use their naked eye to see how far down the disc goes.

For most of those years the clarity has been decreasing. Throughout these 44 years the reasons why keep changing. The latest thinking is fine sediment is the main culprit. That is why every project that is proposed in the basin must have an environmental component that would reduce the amount of sediment reaching the lake from that particular parcel.

That is why close to \$2 billion has been pumped into what is called the environmental improvement program. The EIP was established after President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al

Gore came to Tahoe for the first Lake Tahoe Environmental Summit. (The next one is Aug. 13, 10am at Edgewood Tahoe, Stateline.) Much of that money came through the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act. Reauthorization of it is not expected any time soon. Other money has come from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

With the tap dry on both those sources, local jurisdictions and regulatory agencies are scratching their heads as to how future projects will be get paid. And with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection Agency implementing the total maximum daily load protocols, the gauntlet has been laid down for the five counties, one city, U.S. Forest Service and two state transportation agencies.

Clarity readings since 2000



Lake Tahoe's clarity improved in 2011, but why remains unknown. Photo/LTN file

- 2011: 68.9 feet
- 2010: 64.4 feet
- 2009: 68.1 feet
- 2008: 69.6 feet
- 2007: 70.1 feet

- 2006: 67.7 feet
- 2005: 72.4 feet
- 2004: 73.6 feet
- 2003: 71 feet
- 2002: 78 feet
- 2001: 73.6 feet
- 2000: 67.3 feet

Source: UC Davis

Other data from the latest clarity report:

- Despite the cold winter and a cool July, the annual average surface water temperatures rose by 0.6 degrees.
- The length of time a summerlike stratification – where layers of water form with different temperatures – persists has increased by almost 20 days, a likely outcome of climate change. Researchers fear if this trend continues, oxygen replenishment to the bottom of the lake will become less frequent.
- A potential culprit to reduced summer clarity is a microscopic algae cell called *Cyclotella*. The tiny cells have grown exponentially in the past five years, scattering light and reducing clarity. Research shows that times of the highest concentrations of *Cyclotella* coincide with the lowest summer clarity levels.
- The 2007 Angora Fire, which burned 9 percent of the Upper Truckee River drainage, had almost no effect on lake water quality.
- An experiment using rubber mats on a half-acre site in the southeast portion of Lake Tahoe to control the spread of Asian clams appears to be effective.

Movement to blend S. Tahoe, Lake Valley fire departments

Lake Valley Fire Protection District is officially taking over fire marshal duties for South Lake Tahoe.

South Lake Tahoe will pay for a financial study to determine the economic gain-loss for taxpayers for each jurisdiction if consolidation of the departments were to occur. Lake Valley's board will take up the issue tonight.

Request for proposals will be sent out for the study, with the City Council likely reviewing them in October.



Brian Uhler, left, and Gareth Harris, fire chiefs of South Lake Tahoe and Lake Valley, respectively, with arson dog Simmie, talk to the City Council Aug. 8.

Photo/Kathryn Reed

No exchange of money is proposed at this time for Lake Valley's fire marshal services because the city will be picking up the expense of the financial study.

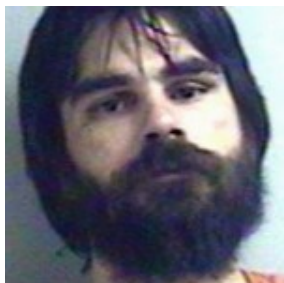
Talks are under way with Lake Tahoe Community College to have a training station there that would tie into the fire academy and possibly mean Station 2 in the city would not need to be remodeled.

– Kathryn Reed

S. Tahoe man accused of burglarizing pot club

A South Lake Tahoe man was arrested late Aug. 8 on suspicion of burglary at Patient2Patient marijuana collective.

The troubled dispensary on Highway 50 in South Lake Tahoe must close its doors by Aug. 20 because of a slew of violations. Until then the business is open and people want to get their pot without paying for it.



Leslie Decker

An alarm alerted police officers to a disturbance at the collective at 11:30pm Wednesday.

Officers said they witnessed Leslie Decker, 24, crawling out the bottom of a broken glass door. Inside this broken glass door was a cement cinder block, which appeared to have been used to break the glass, police said.

Decker's bicycle was lying on the ground on the east side of the building. Officers said he had several tools with him, including a socket wrench, sockets, a box cutter and screwdrivers.

The dispensary was also burglarized in July.

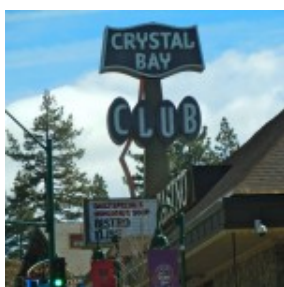
– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Tahoe casinos start summer strong

Gaming revenue was up on both ends of the Lake Tahoe for June compared to the previous year.

This was in contrast to the statewide decline of 6 percent.

Nevada's Gaming Control Board released figures Aug. 9 showing \$832.5 million was collected in June, compared with \$885.8 million in 2011.



North Shore
casinos did
well in June.
Photo/LTN file

Stateline revenue was up 17 percent at \$17 million. North Shore was up 29.3 percent. That was the largest increase for any region in the state.

Overall, Northern Nevada numbers were up compared to a drop in the south part of the state.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Study: Physically fit kids do better academically

By Serena Gorddon, HealthDay News

Middle school students who are physically fit are likely to score higher on standardized tests measuring reading and math abilities, a study has found.

And the average scores went up in correlation with levels of fitness, the findings showed.

“The more physically fit kids were, the higher their scores,” said the study’s lead author, Trent Petrie, director of the Center for Sport Psychology at the University of North Texas in Denton.

“Parents should encourage their kids to be physically active. There are some real cognitive and academic benefits that come from physical fitness,” Petrie said.

Results of the study were presented Friday at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Orlando.

The study included more than 1,200 middle school students from five schools in a suburban area of Texas, with 561 boys and 650 girls.

About 57 percent of the children were white, and nearly one-quarter were Mexican American. Nine percent were black and about 2 percent were of Asian descent.

The school district provided the researchers with information on the children's race, age, grade level and whether they qualified for the free school lunch program, which was an indicator of the family's socioeconomic status. The schools also provided scores to the tests, which were given between one and four months after the researchers had assessed the children's levels of fitness.

Fitness tests were administered during physical education classes to determine the youngsters' heart and lung health (cardiorespiratory fitness), as well as their body mass index (BMI), an indicator of how much body fat a person has. The children also filled out questionnaires that helped the researchers determine factors such as self-esteem and social support.

After accounting for factors such as age, sex, family income and self-esteem, the researchers found that for both boys and girls, higher levels of cardiorespiratory fitness predicted better scores on the math and reading tests.

For boys, perceived social support also seemed to boost their reading scores, the investigators found.

In girls, while being physically fit predicted higher reading scores, so too did a higher BMI – which indicates more body fat. "We were a little surprised by this finding," Petrie said.

"It was not as strong an association as the one with physical fitness," he added. The authors suspect it may have something to do with girls this age entering puberty, which may be related to a higher BMI and slightly higher cognitive (brain) development. He said he plans to look for this relationship again in larger studies to see if it was a chance finding, or if the association holds up.

"While we can't say 100 percent that physical fitness causes better academic performance, we can say that there is a strong and predictive relationship between physical fitness and academic performance," Petrie said.

"It's hard to tease apart the exact reason for this association," said Becky Hashim, an attending clinical psychologist and assistant professor in the departments of psychiatry and pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Montefiore, in New York City.

"It may be that the children are getting more oxygen. When the heart and lungs are working at a higher capacity, it may allow the brain to work at peak performance. Children who are less fit may be sleepier during school," she noted. "I personally feel that there's probably a strong relationship between the confidence you get from being able to do something physical well and academic performance."

Whatever the reason behind this association may be, "there's certainly no harm in pushing physical fitness," Hashim added.

"Physical fitness may make you feel better, give you more confidence and improve your performance across the board," she said.

Petrie agreed. "Physically fit kids are happier, have higher self-esteem, tend to have better relationships, and now we're beginning to see, there also seem to be benefits cognitively and academically. Our study sends a strong warning to policymakers to reconsider the utility of physical education

classes for kids,” he said.

Because this study was presented at a medical meeting, the data and conclusions should be viewed as preliminary until published in a peer-reviewed journal.

S. Tahoe officials looking at ways to stimulate economy

By Kathryn Reed

With a deficit of more than \$1 million that could grow to \$1.5 million depending on how property taxes come in, South Lake Tahoe City Manager Nancy Kerry is looking at ways to bring more money into city coffers.



She presented a plan to the council on Tuesday that calls for an era of cooperation instead of competition. That discussion will be further expanded on Aug. 11 when the City Council has a three-hour workshop starting at 9am at Lake Tahoe Airport to discuss its priorities.

Kerry on Aug. 7 spoke of the need to meet with government and regulatory agencies, as well as private businesses in the basin to find the common themes each has in their respective strategic plans in order to find the common denominator.

The council believes recreation is the theme. But that in itself is a broad goal. It could mean having an Olympic training ground, something involving sports medicine, or having a sports complex for various athletic pursuits.

The idea Kerry presented is that the entities will need to give up some of their turf – literally and figuratively – for the greater good. She doesn't want a plan; she wants to define projects and bring them to fruition.

Mayor Claire Fortier asked how this is different than the Prosperity Plan.

"The Prosperity Plan is a planning document. This is an implementation discussion," Kerry told the council as to what the gathering of the players would be.

While it was not brought up at the meeting Tuesday, a piece to the puzzle could be the use of the vacant Kingsbury Middle School site in Stateline. While Douglas County School District wants to sell this acreage and the buildings on it, it could possibly be repurposed as the South Shore attempts to find its niche in the world of tourism. The ultimate goal is to find an economic driver.

Entities throughout the basin continue to go into debt (roads for South Lake Tahoe) or borrow from reserves (softball field for Lake Tahoe Unified) to make ends meet and provide what residents would call "the basics".

Revenues are stagnant everywhere.

Councilman Tom Davis was the biggest naysayer to Kerry's idea to create a collective vision by getting everyone to agree to focus on one or two projects. He believes it will take too long and not everyone will get on the same page and sounded reluctant to even try.

Councilwoman Angela Swanson was the most supportive of the idea.

"I think the time is now. The agencies are hungry for an action plan," Swanson said. "This gets us beyond siloing."

Kerry's idea to go from recession to recovery to

revitalization will be talked about more by the council at Saturday's workshop.

In other city news:

- A \$150,000 ambulance bought by the city-county joint powers authority is on the streets.
- For the umpteenth time, the council talked about signs. Now sandwich boards will be allowed Saturdays (8am-5pm), Sundays (8am-5pm), holidays, and Dec. 24-Jan. 11 (8am-5pm each day).

Stateline man murdered in Phoenix

By Kathryn Reed

Phoenix police are investigating the death of a Stateline man.

Matthew McMaster's body was found in some brush along a highway after firefighters extinguished a blaze about 6am July 28. This was one week before he would have turned 25.

"The circumstances around it led us to believe it was a homicide," Phoenix Sgt. Tommy Thompson told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He said results from the autopsy are not expected back for about a month.

Thompson would not reveal what clues led detectives to the conclusion McMaster's death was a homicide, but said it was obvious it was not a case of someone camping and a fire getting out of control.

McMaster was born in Lake Tahoe and grew up in Stateline, having attended the local schools.

He was in Phoenix going to the Motorcycle Mechanic Institute. His father, Barry McMaster, told *Lake Tahoe News* his son had been in Arizona since the spring to pursue a dream of becoming a motorcycle mechanic; and that he was getting good grades.

McMaster loved the outdoors. He was an avid snowboarder, but also skied. He played disc golf and regular golf.

He also loved animals.

McMaster is survived by his parents, Barry and Nancy McMaster of Stateline; brother Tobias (Melanie) Sharp, and nephew Tyler Sharp of South Lake Tahoe; and grandmother Madeline Kerr of Carson City.

A celebration of life will be Aug. 12 at Lakeside Beach at 7pm.

Fish and Game commissioner may be removed from post

By Paul Rogers, San Jose Mercury News

Six months after one of California's top wildlife officials faced a fury after shooting a mountain lion in Idaho, fellow commissioners are expected Wednesday to remove Dan Richards as president of the state Fish and Game Commission.

But the unabashed hunting enthusiast isn't going down without a fight.

"This originates from the enviro-terrorists being threatened by me," Richards said in one of his first interviews since his mountain lion hunt enraged environmentalists.

"They see a guy who is paying attention to the issues, and who calls them out on the crap they throw out. Their involvement is important but by and large it's a farce, and I'm not afraid to call it that."

The state Fish and Game Commission will vote on "election of new officers" at its meeting in Ventura, a vote that is expected to dethrone Richards, a San Bernardino County real estate developer and big-game hunter, but leave him as a member of the commission.

"The president of the commission should be someone who has the confidence of a majority of his peers," said Mike Sutton, vice president of the commission, and executive director of Audubon California.

Richards said he plans to attend the meeting. If he is replaced as president – a role that allows him to set the agenda, speak for the commission and run its meetings – he said he will remain on the commission until his term expires in January.

The powerful five-member commission sets rules for fishing, hunting and endangered species in California.

Read the whole story