

# Convicted murderer who helped search for Dugard back behind bars

By Kirk Mitchell, Denver Post

STERLING, Colo. – For 32 years, Colorado officials took few steps to capture convicted killer Robert Charles Johnson, who escaped the Cañon City prison in 1975.

They filed, but didn't pursue, an escape charge against him. He traveled across the country and spent decades working as a river-rafting guide. Even a 1990 California arrest wasn't enough to get Colorado prison officials or prosecutors interested in chasing him down.

That changed in 2005 after the Department of Corrections created a cold-case fugitive unit. Within two years, Johnson was back behind bars.

Now Johnson, 60, faces more time in prison for his escape than he ever would have served for the original murder charge – and he still has as many as 10 years or so left to serve for that.

In an interview from Sterling Correctional Facility, he said he fears his golden years will be consumed behind bars even though he says he has lived a model life for decades.

Fremont County District Attorney Thom LeDoux said there has to be a penalty for escape regardless of how well someone behaves after fleeing – or there would be no deterrent.

**Read the whole story**

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# BofA puts off sale of Ritz-Carlton at Northstar

By Mark Anderson, Sacramento Business Journal

Bank of America delayed until July 11 its sale of the Ritz-Carlton Lake Tahoe.

The bank early in June had filed a notice of sale of the nearly new resort, listing a sale date of June 27 for an auction at the courthouse steps at the Santucci Justice Center near Roseville.

The bank this week delayed the sale. It is not unusual for notices of sale to be delayed.

The bank did not set a minimum bid.

The luxury hotel opened Dec. 9, 2009, to what was a good ski season but also the depths of recession.

Bank of America, a primary lender on the development, first filed a notice of default on the property in March 2010. In that notice last year, the bank claimed Highlands Hotel Co. LLC was \$18.6 million in default on the hotel and a neighboring parcel. The default involved two loans totaling \$157 million.

**Read the whole story**

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# Remains of another victim of I-5 Strangler found

By Roman Gokhman, Contra Costa Times

Police have discovered the body of a Walnut Creek woman who was kidnapped and murdered in 1977 by the serial killer known as the I-5 Strangler.

The remains of 21-year-old Lou Ellen Burleigh were recently found in a dry riverbed near Lake Berryessa by a Napa County sheriff's deputy who had taken an interest in the case, Walnut Creek police announced Monday.

Roger Reece Kibbe was convicted of the murder, as well as five others, in 2009. As part of a plea deal, he agreed to cooperate with authorities and locate Burleigh's body.

At the time Kibbe claimed Burleigh was his first victim, and led police detectives around the lake on an unsuccessful search for her body. Burleigh was the only one of his victims who had not been found.

Burleigh was working for Heald Business College at the time of her killing and agreed to meet Kibbe to talk about a secretary job opening at a cosmetics studio on Contra Costa Boulevard.

When she met him on Sept. 10, 1977, in the 500 block of Contra Costa Boulevard, he told her his office was under construction and asked her to get in his van so they could talk about the job.

After they talked, he asked her to meet him again the morning after. She was seen for the last time around 9am Sept. 11.

Kibbe, who confessed to raping and murdering her, previously was convicted of killing 17-year-old Darcine Frackenpoh, whose body was found near the Old Meyers Grade on the South Shore in

1987, and has been in prison since 1991.

**Read the whole story**

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## **EnEarl barred from being a judge again**

The Nevada Commission on Judicial Ethics has barred former Douglas County Justice of the Peace Jim EnEarl from ever being a judge again.

The agreement signed last week by EnEarl says he violated judicial canons by repeatedly engaging in “extremely inappropriate and offensive” comments and actions with his court staff. Details of complaints filed last year by court employees have been sealed.

EnEarl served 15 years on the bench, having spent most of his career in law enforcement. He resigned from in August 2010.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **Lawsuit filed in Amtrak crash; most victims**

# identified

**By Martha Bellisle, Reno Gazette-Journal**

Records searches by the *Reno Gazette-Journal* revealed Tuesday that the truck driver who plowed into an Amtrak train, killing six, had two additional speeding violations besides the four reported by the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles.

Those two other tickets issued to Lawrence Valli included one for slamming his semi into the back of a Toyota Camry that had stopped on Interstate 80 in 2007 for an accident, sending a family of three to the hospital, the Gazette-Journal found.

But the speeding citations, and Valli's other tickets for driving without insurance, without a seatbelt and talking on a cell phone, did not reach a level under Nevada law that would have allowed officials to suspend or revoke Valli's license.

"It was apparent Mr. Valli was at least a very distracted driver if not a driver who's conduct exhibited a disregard for the safety of others," said Curtis Coulter, the lawyer for the Pinon family, which sued Valli and his employer, Volz Trucking Service, in 2009 for damages from the crash.

"That's evident by the damage he did to the Pinon's vehicle."

A new lawsuit filed Tuesday also names Valli and the John Davis Trucking Company, claiming they were negligent for failing to heed the railway crossing gates and signals, and crashing into the Amtrak train.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Washoe County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office identified one more of the six crash victims as 34-year-old Cheuy Ong, of West Jordan, Utah. That leaves only one more of the six to be named.

Only two of the nine crash victims that were taken to Renown Regional Medical Center remained hospitalized Tuesday. One is

in serious condition, and one in fair, the hospital said.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Blast of cold, wet weather headed for Tahoe**

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a wind advisory for Lake Tahoe through 11 tonight. By afternoon gusts should be 40 mph.

Wave heights could reach 2 to 4 feet. Small boats will be prone to capsizing, with the NWS suggesting they be pulled from the lake.

The strong cold front moving through the Lake Tahoe Basin is likely to bring heavy rains overnight and through Wednesday.

Areas north of Interstate 80 and west of Highway 395 are likely to receive the brunt of the storm. Small creeks and streams are expected to rise overnight, raising concerns about flooding.

Temperatures are expected to be 15 to 20 degrees below normal.

Sun will return to the basin Thursday, with temperatures back in the 70s by Friday.

Fourth of July is expected to full of sun, with highs in the low 80s.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Body found at Marlette Lake identified

A body that was found on June 20 near Marlette Lake has been identified as being a missing Incline Village woman.

Kelly McGinnis, 43, was last seen leaving her home in the 900 block of Galaxy Way on June 18, Sheriff's spokesman Armando Avina said in a release. Her vehicle had been found in a parking lot just west of the Thunderbird Lodge on Nevada 28.

Sheriff's detectives are continuing their investigation, and no foul play is suspected, Avina said.

– *Reno Gazette-Journal staff report*

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# LTCC training students to be able to work out of college

By Kathryn Reed

Education isn't just about memorization. It's not just about getting a certificate or degree. And it's more than learning.

Lake Tahoe Community College is continually beefing up its career and technical education program to stay relevant with what students and employers want.

The idea behind CTE is when students leave the two-year institution in South Lake Tahoe they will have a skill that will land them a paycheck.

Virginia Boyar, who is in charge of LTCC's CTE program, updated the board of trustees this month about what is going on.

The college for the 2011-12 academic year expects to receive \$66,000 in a grant through Senate Bill 70. The four areas of emphasis for this money are culinary arts, digital media arts, dental assisting, and physical therapy aide.

Some of those programs will tie into the local workforce, as well as to South Tahoe High School. The piece that is missing is better coordination in the dental program between STHS and LTCC.

When STHS builds the sports medicine building and gets that curriculum going, it will be a pathway to the college's PT program. This fall LTCC be offering a couple courses that will lead to the PT certificate.

The biggest success for career tech ed is the local fire academy, which in its sixth year saw 28 cadets graduate Saturday.

A change coming July 1 is having the work experience/internship program be part of the CTE program.

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# Washoe County sheriff's



# increase help for domestic violence victims

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has increased its ability to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking with the addition of a grant-funded victim advocate from the Crisis Call Center working directly out of the sheriff's detective division.

Sally Walker's position is funded for two years by a federal STOP Violence Grant administered through the Nevada Attorney's General Office.

Walker is asking the community for donations to help with the operation of the victim's room and to help sustain victims during the turbulent transition period that follows crimes of this nature.

Items that are needed include diapers, formula, pajamas, jackets and more. If interested in donating, call (775) 325.6454.

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# The reality of global climate change

**By Sharon Begley, Newsweek**

Joplin, Mo., was prepared. The tornado warning system gave residents 24 minutes' notice that a twister was bearing down on them. Doctors and nurses at St. John's Regional Medical Center, who had practiced tornado drills for years, moved fast, getting patients away from windows, closing blinds, and

activating emergency generators. And yet more than 130 people died in Joplin, including four people at St. John's, where the tornado sucked up the roof and left the building in ruins, like much of the shattered city.

Even those who deny the existence of global climate change are having trouble dismissing the evidence of the last year. In the U.S. alone, nearly 1,000 tornadoes have ripped across the heartland, killing more than 500 people and inflicting \$9 billion in damage. The Midwest suffered the wettest April in 116 years, forcing the Mississippi to flood



Snow in Lake  
Tahoe keeps  
coming in  
June.

Photo/LTN

February 2011

thousands of square miles, even as drought-plagued Texas suffered the driest month in a century. Worldwide, the litany of weather's extremes has reached biblical proportions. The 2010 heat wave in Russia killed an estimated 15,000 people. Floods in Australia and Pakistan killed 2,000 and left large swaths of each country under water. A months-long drought in China has devastated millions of acres of farmland. And the temperature keeps rising: 2010 was the hottest year on earth since weather records began.

From these and other extreme-weather events, one lesson is sinking in with terrifying certainty. The stable climate of

the last 12,000 years is gone. Which means you haven't seen anything yet. And we are not prepared.

Picture California a few decades from now, a place so hot and arid the state's trademark orange and lemon trees have been replaced with olive trees that can handle the new climate. Alternating floods and droughts have made it impossible for the reservoirs to capture enough drinking water. The picturesque Highway 1, sections of which are already periodically being washed out by storm surges and mudslides, will have to be rerouted inland, possibly through a mountain. These aren't scenes from another deadly-weather thriller like *The Day After Tomorrow*. They're all changes that California officials believe they need to brace for within the next decade or two. And they aren't alone. Across the U.S., it's just beginning to dawn on civic leaders that they'll need to help their communities brave coming dangers brought by climate change, from disappearing islands in Chesapeake Bay to dust bowls in the Plains and horrific hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. Yet only 14 states are even planning, let alone implementing, climate-change adaptation plans, says Terri Cruce, a climate consultant in California. The other 36 apparently are hoping for a miracle.

The game of catch-up will have to happen quickly because so much time was lost to inaction. "The Bush administration was a disaster, but the Obama administration has accomplished next to nothing either, in part because a significant part of the Democratic Party is inclined to balk on this issue as well," says economist Jeffrey Sachs, head of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. "We [are] past the tipping point." The idea of adapting to climate change was once a taboo subject. Scientists and activists feared that focusing on coping would diminish efforts to reduce carbon emissions. On the opposite side of the divide, climate-change deniers argued that since global warming is a "hoax," there was no need to figure out how to adapt. "Climate-change adaptation was a nonstarter,"

says Vicki Arroyo, executive director of the Georgetown Climate Center. “If you wanted to talk about that, you would have had to talk about climate change itself, which the Bush administration didn’t want to do.” In fact, President Bush killed what author Mark Hertsgaard in his 2011 book, *Hot*, calls “a key adaptation tool,” the National Climate Assessment, an analysis of the vulnerabilities in regions of the U.S. and ideas for coping with them. The legacy of that: state efforts are spotty and local action is practically nonexistent. “There are no true adaptation experts in the federal government, let alone states or cities,” says Arroyo. “They’ve just been commandeered from other departments.”

**Read the whole story**