2 pounds meth seized in Stateline, man in jail

On Nov. 18, a multi-agency drug trafficking investigation culminated in the arrest of one suspect and the seizure of approximately 2 pounds of meth in Stateline.

The suspect, 45-year-old Francisco Sandoval-Estrada of Modesto, was arrested after delivering approximately 1 pound of suspected methamphetamine to investigators during an undercover narcotic sales transaction.

An additional pound of suspected methamphetamine was recovered by investigators in the vehicle that Sandoval-Estrada arrived in. Estimated street value of the seized methamphetamine is approximately $145,000.

Investigators from the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office Street Enforcement Team, Western El Dorado Narcotic Enforcement Team and the All Threats/All Crimes Unit from Reno conducted the investigation.

Sandoval-Estrada was booked into the Douglas County Jail on charges of trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of a controlled substance for sale. His bail was set at $105,000.

Sandoval-Estrada is also being held on an immigration hold through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Threat of abductions leads to sheriff’s warning

In light of recent attempted child abduction incidents that have occurred in surrounding Northern Nevada and California communities, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office is providing the following information.

In the last two months, there have been several incidents of suspicious activity related to possible attempted abductions in Reno, Sparks, Carson City and South Lake Tahoe.

The majority of incidents have occurred while children/teens were walking to or from school. Suspects have engaged children/teens in conversation, and attempted to get them to leave with them on foot or in a vehicle. No children have gone with the subjects.

Suspect descriptions have ranged from young male Caucasians, to middle-aged Hispanic males, and in one incident, a middle aged Caucasian female.

Vehicle descriptions have included a large white van, a dark-colored SUV, a white Chevy pickup with black rims, and a Lexus.

Reno police have arrested three suspects and Sparks police have arrested one suspect whom they believe responsible for some of the incidents. Their investigations are still ongoing.

There have been no related incidents reported in Douglas County; however in an effort to educate parents and children on actions to increase personal safety, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office offers the following tips.

Safety information for children/teens:

Always let parents know where you are going, who you will be

with and what time you will arrive home.

Always get permission from a parent before leaving home, even if going to a nearby location.

Try to avoid walking alone – use the “buddy system”.

Never hitchhike.

Avoid short cuts through alleys, greenbelts, deserted parks or buildings. Never play in these isolated areas.

Always walk near lights and stay in public and open areas at night.

Always walk on the sidewalk or as far away from the roadway as possible. Walk facing toward traffic so you can see vehicles approaching.

If someone pulls up near you in a car, and asks you to come over so they can talk to you, do not approach the car. Tell them to go talk to an adult. Remember, adults should never ask kids for help, they should always ask another adult.

Trust your instincts – recognize and report suspicious behavior. Go somewhere safe if you feel fearful of someone.

If you see someone unusual hanging around a schoolyard, park, bus stop, or location where children or teens hang out, tell your parents.

Remember descriptions of suspicious vehicles or persons. If you can read the license plate, write it down. Write it in the dirt or snow if no pen or paper is available.

Safety information for adults/parents:

Never leave children under 6 years old unattended.

Avoid clothing or toys with child’s name on it (suspects can use this as an intro when approaching a child by calling

him/her by their name).

Identify safe houses in your neighborhood that your child can go to if frightened or chased.

Never leave a child alone in a public place.

Always accompany your child into public restrooms.

Always go with your child to supervise door-to-door activities such as fundraising or Halloween

Make it a family rule that your child must let you know where they are at all times.

Make sure your children know their last name, phone number, and address.

Make sure your child knows how do dial 911.

Let your child know it is all right to say “no” to an adult if asked to do something they are not comfortable doing.

Teach children that adults should never need or ask for help from children for any reason (e.g. ask for directions, asking for help find an animal, etc).

Explain that if an adult or child ever asks them to “keep a secret” it is OK for them to discuss it with a parent/trusted adult.

Actions if approached/abducted:

Parents should teach the following actions to their children in case they are approached or abducted by a stranger.

If a car pulls up beside a child, teach the child to move away from the car. Tell children to run in the opposite direction the car is facing.

If taken by a stranger, to yell specific phrases such as,

“Help, I don’t know this person!”, “I need your help”, or “I’m being kidnapped!” They can also yell “fire” which usually gets everyone’s attention quickly, and then follow up with one of the previous phrases.

If grabbed by a stranger, drop their weight by quickly squatting, twist their body, stretch out their body, kick/punch/scratch/bite at the abductor, and scream “Help! I need your help, I’m being kidnapped!”

If grabbed in a store, yell for a cashier or other adult, and to shatter merchandise and knock down displays. Tell child to try to grab onto the nearest person.

If forced into a car or building, scream and shatter objects and windows.

If abducted in a parking lot, pound on cars to set off car alarms, and go under a parked car if possible.

If abducted into a car, quickly jump into backseat and go out a back door.

If locked in a trunk, push out taillights and let wires dangle out.

If locked in an apartment or house, try all doors and windows for escape. Create an emergency situation (flood bathroom, break windows, set off alarms).

Never stop fighting back and always keep looking for an escape route.

Yanish wins tie-breaker to be on KGID board

Natalie Yanish will officially be on the Kingsbury General Improvement District board.

She and Bob McDowell received the same number of votes on Nov. 2, necessitating a tie-breaker. They appeared before Douglas County Clerk Ted Thran on Nov. 19 to draw cards – with the high card designating the new board member.



Natalie Yanish

Yanish drew an ace and McDowell an 8.

The other new board members are Darya Vogt and Dan Norman.

Smoke, flames at Fallen Leaf Lake are control burn

Updated Nov. 19 at 2pm.

By Kathryn Reed

FALLEN LEAF LAKE – Smoke fills the air and the crackling of fire can be heard. But no one is in sight at this controlled

burn and no evidence of water is in the area to suppress the flames if they were to get out of control.

On the second swing by the intersection of Fallen Leaf Lake and Tahoe Mountain roads a man with a shovel and hardhat is spotted. It’s Rob Kimball of Kimball Tree Service.



A control burn Nov. 18 at Fallen Leaf Lake. Photos/Kathryn Reed

He said his company was contracted by the Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department to burn 50 acres. The process has been going on for two weeks.

“The ground is wet. Nothing is going to move outside of where it is burning,” Kimball said.

He used a machine the morning of Nov. 18 to stack some of the debris left over from the thinning project. Kimball said that’s why some of the piles appeared to be tall and caused flames to shoot 2-3 feet in the air.

Despite the high winds Thursday afternoon, Kimball said everything was under control. He said guys working with him were doing some burns on the water side of Fallen Leaf Lake Road as well.

Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Chief Gary Gerren said the project is

being overseen by the Nevada Fire Safe Council. This agency has a list of approved contractors to do this type of work and Kimball is on that list.

With Fallen Leaf being a volunteer department, there isn’t the manpower to do the work.

“There is no regulation to have water available. You just need good prudent judgment,” Gerren said. This is because the fire season is over, the ground is wet and more moisture is coming.

Fire officials not associated with Fallen Leaf said a certain amount of wind is needed to blow the smoke out of the basin and not settle on the neighborhood where the burn is. They also said it’s not unreasonable for one person with a shovel to handle 20 burn piles, but would need a contingency plan if things got out of hand.

Over the course of the burn period about 300 piles have been burned. Before this project, Kimball’s crews burned 27 other acres for Fallen Leaf Lake.

A couple signs are posted on the intersecting streets saying “control burn” but no evidence of a water tender or other fire suppression unit was evident.

Kimball said he checks on the fire periodically throughout the night.

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Southwest celebrates 20 years

at Reno-Tahoe Airport

By Kara Lapoint, Reno Gazette-Journal

When Southwest Airlines first began service at Reno-Tahoe International Airport 20 years ago, it operated 12 nonstop flights to two cities, Las Vegas and Oakland, with just 15 employees.



Today, the airline runs 28 non-stops from Reno-Tahoe to 12 different cities, with connecting service to 53 cities. It operates out of four gates with about 120 employees – seven of whom have been there all 20 years.

Monday marks the 20-year anniversary of Southwest's service at RTI.

Providing 22,914 flights to and from Reno-Tahoe in the past year alone, Southwest now accounts for 53 percent of the airport's total flights.

In a poll posted on RGJ.com last week, 82.6 percent of voters said they use Southwest Airlines when flying from Reno-Tahoe.

Gustavo Johnson, a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, said he uses the airline to travel home to Salt Lake City because it offers a nonstop flight, competitive airfare, free baggage and great customer service.

Read the whole story

1 arrest, more possible in Washoe Meadow fire

By Kathryn Reed

A South Lake Tahoe male juvenile was arrested on charges of deliberately setting fire to state property.

Quick thinking by neighbors in the area of Washoe Meadow State Park on Oct. 15 ensured the blaze didn't grow by more than 100-square-feet.

Because of the age of the suspect his name is not being released. However, Terri Mizuhara, spokeswoman for CalFire, said her department believes other youths were involved and more arrests are possible.



Michael Lipkin keeps an eye on the Oct. 15 arson fire in Washoe Meadow State Park. Photo/Lynne Paulson

An accelerant was used, but Mizuhara would not say what because of the ongoing investigation.

The youth was charged with two misdemeanors. His case is now

being handled by probation.

“I think the family and the juvenile were very, very lucky this was not a critical fire season. Just a few short years ago we were looking at Angora,” Mizuhara said. “I know the family understands this could have been far worse than it was. It’s lucky people in the area saw smoke and responded appropriately.”

CalFire in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service did a juvenile fire setter assessment with the boy. The idea is to figure out if this is likely a one-time occurrence or a habit.

The mental health department provides any counseling that is deemed necessary.

Get out the shovels and crank up the heat

The National Weather Service in Reno has issued a winter storm watch for the Lake Tahoe Basin from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon.

The heaviest snow will be Friday night and again late Saturday night. Expect 2-4 feet above 7,000 feet and 1-2 feet closer to lake level.



White caps whip across Fallen Leaf Lake on Nov. 18. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Winds will be 20-30mph, with gusts of 50mp. Ridgetops could see 85mph.

All of this means there will be restrictions on the highways in and out of the Lake Tahoe Basin. Road conditions may be accessed from *Lake Tahoe News'* home page.

The high on Friday is slated to be 38 degrees, the low 25; 28 will be the high Saturday and 15 the low; 23 the high Sunday and 11 the low.

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2 arrests in string of burglaries

Two people were arrested Nov. 17 on burglary and other charges stemming from the rash of incidents in El Dorado County.

Lt. Les Lovell told *Lake Tahoe News* the suspects who have been in the South Lake Tahoe area for two months are linked to 18 residential burglaries.



Craig Adams

Craig Ivan Adams, 30, and Katy Kelly Manoff, 26, were booked



Katy Manoff

into the El Dorado County Jail in South Lake Tahoe after their arrest at a South Lake Tahoe hotel Thursday night.

They have significant criminal histories with prior felony convictions, authorities said.

The investigation began in mid-September. As more burglaries were reported, a pattern emerged that connected the Tahoe burglaries to incidents happening on the West Slope. These burglaries were spread out over a large area and include four in the Meyers area, three in South Lake Tahoe, three in Pollock Pines, three in Cameron Park-Shingle Springs, two in Greenstone Estates, one in Camino, one in Granite Bay, and one in Incline Village.

Outreach to the community, including using the reverse 911 system last week, paid off with tips and information leading to Adams and Manoff.

In the hotel room where the suspects were living,

investigators said they found stolen property, loaded firearms, illicit drugs, documentation indicating the whereabouts of pawned property, and cash.

Phillip Garrido's attorney wants documents sealed

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

Phillip Garrido's lawyer filed papers Wednesday opposing the release of sealed court documents involving kidnap victim Jaycee Lee Dugard, saying that opening up the documents would doom her client's chances of ever receiving a fair trial.

"This court should keep these documents under seal," El Dorado County public defender Susan Gellman wrote in documents filed Wednesday. "There is an 'overriding interest' here; that of a fair trial."

The Bee and other media agencies are seeking the release of numerous documents that have been sealed in the case against Garrido and his wife, Nancy, who are accused of kidnapping Dugard in 1991 when she was 11.

Read the whole story

Deputies expect break soon in El Dorado County burglaries

By Kathryn Reed

Using reverse 911 for the first time has brought in an array of leads, and not just about the burglaries in the North Upper Truckee area of El Dorado County.

The phone system was used last week and no thefts have been reported this week. The tips are being called “promising”.

Small items that can be carried from a home like jewelry have been taken, while the bigger items like flat screen televisions and computers have been left behind. El Dorado County sheriff’s Lt. Les Lovell believes this is because the culprits are on foot.

“These houses are clearly being cased. One particular person was gone for three hours and it occurred,” Lovell said. “These people are watching what’s going on.”

The suspects are a higher threat level to deputies and anyone who might walk in on them because it is considered more brazen to engage in this type of burglary than breaking into a house where people are gone for a long time, Lovell said. All of the crimes have happened during the day.

“I’m hopeful we’ll have some good news in the next few days and we may be able to recover some property,” Lovell said.

The items have not turned up at local pawnshops.

A reward of $500 has been offered for anyone who provides information that leads to an arrest. Secret Witness may be reached at (530) 541.6800.