CHP officer arrests Pop Warner coach after verbal spat

By Susan Wood

In an apparent show of testosterone, a confrontation at South Tahoe High School this week that led to an arrest of a Pop Warner coach by a California Highway Patrol officer has turned into a legal battle with opposing investigations.



Defensive coach Jim Durham was arrested and later released Tuesday evening after sharing a heated discussion about trespassing with CHP Officer Alton Randall, who removed Durham from the football field in front of many parents, players and other coaches.

Consequently, Durham and the Pop Warner league have retained an attorney, and the CHP South Lake Tahoe division will conduct an internal investigation of the incident.

According to the CHP, Randall was on duty that night as he responded to motorists parking in an illegal parking zone and walked through the fencing where the teams practice. Durham approached the officer and allegedly told him he was "not allowed on the field," CHP Lt. Tim Malone explained of the state agency's investigation.

The two men were terse in their exchange until the coach became "animated, aggravated and approached the officer in an aggressive manner," Malone added.

"(Randall) told him to stop and not approach any further," Malone told *Lake Tahoe News*. From there, the uniformed officer pulled out his Taser stun gun but "he did not deploy the

Taser."

Durham was arrested on charges of obstructing, delaying and resisting an officer. He was released and not booked into custody. Malone would not say if Randall has a history of being in confrontations. He was not placed on any type of leave.

The case may end up with the El Dorado County District Attorney's office, but Tahoe's Assistant District Attorney Hans Uthe has not received it, he told *Lake Tahoe News* Friday.

No report was made by the South Lake Tahoe Police Department.

The highly charged incident stunned Lake Tahoe Unified School District Superintendent Jim Tarwater.

"I've never in all my years had that happen on school grounds," Tarwater said Friday.

CHP has jurisdiction to enforce the traffic laws. It's unclear how the traffic ended up on a football field.

"Going out on a field – that I don't know about," Tarwater said, characterizing the confrontation as "unconventional."

The incident has become a serious matter for Pop Warner, which issues its own local, regional and national codes of conduct. The question of a possible wrongful arrest arose.

South Tahoe Pop Warner President Chuck Leonard declined Friday to speak to the legal matter and deferred all questions to their attorney Al Villalobos.

Villalobos insisted that people on the field recall a different version of the exchange between the two men and hopes to get to the bottom of the matter after the league completes its interviews with witnesses.

"Pop Warner is investigating the incident between Officer

Randall and coach Jim Durham, and (the youth athletic organization) is very concerned about allegations of inappropriate police conduct in front of 100 players, coaches and parents," he said.

He stopped short of saying whether the incident will lead to a suit against the state or the officer, but he didn't rule it out.

Villalobos declined to comment further while the matter is being investigated.

Zephyr Cove Elementary on NCLB watch list

By Nancy Cauley

The current status of Zephyr Cove Elementary School, according to No Child Left Behind, reveals that ZCES is currently on the "Watch List" in the area of English-Language Arts.

NCLB law requires that all students obtain a predetermined "Percent Above Cut" (PAC) which translates into how many students are proficient on the state-mandated Criterion Reference Test (CRT) that is administered every March. On the surface this appears to be very simple, but is in reality quite complex because of the way the information is tracked by the state of Nevada.

If you will picture a table with nine rows and four columns, you begin to see the complexity unfold. In addition to a single PAC rate for the entire school, each subpopulation also has its own box to be checked. To further muddy the waters, a

single student may be counted in multiple boxes.

By these calculations, a percentage of ZCES students did not meet the PAC and, hence ZCES did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress for the 2009-10 school year. We have one year to increase the number of students who are proficient in English-Language Arts and our work has already begun in achieving just that.

I have a great deal of confidence in the dedicated staff at ZCES to meet this goal. If you have any questions on the specific data related to NCLB please feel free to contact me or go to http://www.nevadareportcard.com.

Nancy Cauley is principal of Zephyr Cove Elementary School.

Dugard's $20mil. not enough, mom wants state to pay her

By KCRA

The board that considers compensation for California crime victims is being advised to reject a claim by the mother of Jaycee Dugard, who authorities said was held captive for nearly two decades by a paroled rapist.

Lynn Margherita, spokeswoman for the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, said Thursday the board's staff is recommending the claim by Terry Probyn be handled by the courts.

Probyn's claim was not included in the state's $20 million settlement with Dugard and the two daughters she bore to her alleged kidnapper.

Read the whole story

Keep Tahoe Litigated may be future League bumper sticker

By Joann Eisenbrandt

“Keep Tahoe Blue.” Locals and tourists see it everywhere – attached to the wrinkled bumpers of aging Subarus and the shiny chrome of sleek BMWs. Even on poster-pocked telephone poles. It’s a call to environmental action, a bumper sticker, a domain name, and the registered trademark of the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

The League, a private nonprofit membership organization formed in the late 1950s, has, according to its website, “advocated for strong protection of the Tahoe basin’s natural resources and the restoration of its famed clear water … the League established itself as the primary watchdog of the Tahoe basin.”

The watchdog is showing its teeth.

In July, Chris Minnes, former general manager of 968 Park Hotel near Stateline and a bodybuilding and fitness professional, opened a South Shore fitness and age-management business named Keep Tahoe Fit. In mid-July, the League sent him a letter stating the use of Keep Tahoe Fit as a business name, in his logo, as his domain name, and on a Facebook page constituted trademark infringement.

In that letter, Rochelle Alpert of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, the San Francisco legal firm which represents the League

in trademark matters, states Minnes' "use of the name, domain name and your copycat use of the KEEP TAHOE BLUE© design mark and bumper sticker for your logo constitutes plain intentional trademark infringement, dilution and unfair competition." The letter demands that he, "stop all use of the name, domain name and logo immediately, and agree in writing not to use any confusingly similar name, domain, name, mark or logo in the future."

There is no dispute over whether the League "owns" the easily-recognized "Keep Tahoe Blue" trademark. They registered it with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office years ago. The issue is whether Minnes has infringed on the rights given the League by that registration by using the words "Keep Tahoe Fit."

Minnes believes he has not. "As you can see on my website, there are dozens of variations of Keep Tahoe Blue. It's like Delta Faucet and Delta Airlines – they are such different businesses that an intelligent consumer isn't going to confuse them. They also wouldn't confuse Keep Tahoe Fit with Keep Tahoe Blue. And there's such a precedent of people using that sticker."

According to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, "A trademark is a word, name, symbol or device which is used in trade with goods to indicate the source of the goods and to distinguish them from the goods of others." Businesses obtain trademarks through a slow, detailed process, proving to the Patent and Trademark Office their name and identifying marks are truly unique. A firm does not have to "trademark" its name to do business, but once it has, those specific characteristics are protected by law from "infringement" by others.

Trademark law is complex – and is outlined in pages of technical language in the Lanham Act, also known as the Trademark Act of 1946 (ch. 540, 60 Stat. 427 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.). Under that law, infringement occurs when another

person, “shall, without the consent of the registrant– (a) use in commerce any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of a registered mark in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of any goods or services on or in connection with which such use is likely to cause confusion, or to cause mistake, or to deceive.” (15 U.S.C. § 1114).

The Berkman Center for Internet Society at Harvard University puts it into layman’s terms: “The standard is ‘likelihood of confusion.’” In other words, will someone mistakenly assume Keep Tahoe Fit is associated with or sponsored by the League? To determine this, the courts weigh a number of factors such as “the strength of the mark, the proximity of the goods, the similarity of the marks, evidence of actual confusion, the similarity of marketing channels, the degree of caution exercised by the typical consumer and the defendant’s intent.”

Minnes chose Keep Tahoe Fit because, “It has a great ring to it. No, I didn’t expect a problem.” Using Tahoe in the name reflects the fact that a connection to Tahoe is central to his business. “It’s essentially a personal training business, but it is oriented to the Lake Tahoe resident, with sports-specific training and an understanding of how a Tahoe person thinks.”

Minnes has not attempted to trademark Keep Tahoe Fit, citing the cost and lengthy process as reasons. He has not produced any business collateral for sale, such as shirts, bumper stickers or other logo products.

Minnes recently changed his original logo, replacing the image of the lake with a woman running.

“They seem to think they own the image of the lake,” he said.

The League had also complained to Facebook about the Keep Tahoe Fit page. It was taken it down, but it was later reinstated.

As for the League's other demands, "I think they are wildly unfair. Why go after me after years of people using versions of the sticker, without going after everyone? I can't imagine someone who is supposed to be a steward of Lake Tahoe attacking local businesses. I have no money to hire an attorney. If they want to go down that road, I'll let them deal with the negative PR."

Keep Tahoe Fit is only the latest in a veritable bumper crop of Keep Tahoe Blue permutations, among them: Keep Tahoe Local, Keep Tahoe Fed, Keep Tahoe Jew, Keep Tahoe Bomb, Keep Tahoe Culture, Keep Tahoe Seductive, Keep Tahoe Kind, Keep Tahoe Educated, Keep Tahoe Brew and Keep Tahoe Washo.

Lake Tahoe News contacted the League regarding the Keep Tahoe Fit dispute, but also wanted to know if it had undertaken past legal action against other businesses with "Keep Tahoe" in their business name or on promotional materials, what the guidelines were for taking action, and their reaction in general to the proliferation of "Keep Tahoe XXX" images. Their attorney's July 16 letter to Minnes indicated the League had, "successfully enforced its rights against other infringers" but gave no names or details.

Amanda Royal, communications coordinator for the League, told *LTN* neither she, nor any other League spokesperson could comment directly or answer any of our questions because it was "a legal matter."

The League later provided *LTN* with a written statement, which does include answers to some of those questions. In part it says, "We believe Keep Tahoe Blue® is the most recognized brand at Tahoe and must be safeguarded accordingly…. We are particularly concerned about commercial uses because of how they mislead the public and potentially harm the integrity of our long-established brand…. Third parties have always been reasonable, recognizing our rights and taking action to address our concerns. The League has made informal inquiries

of others, as it did with Mr. Minnes, and others have complied with our reasonable requests. The US Trademark office has not authorized anyone to use our mark. Third-party sites have frequently taken down infringing content when requested to do so…. We are not aware of any other entity currently attempting to do business that is using our trademark as their sole business name and brand."

LTN contacted a number of businesses using logos or business names which in some way include the words "Keep Tahoe."

• Keep Tahoe Fed – Project MANA, an Incline Village nonprofit providing hunger relief programs on the North and West shores of Lake Tahoe and Truckee, has the image of their "Keep Tahoe Fed" bumper sticker on their website. George LeBard, current executive director, told *LTN*, "We checked with (the League) before we did it. And they cleared it." LeBard noted they no longer sell that bumper sticker.

• Keep Tahoe Culture – Tahoe Arts and Mountain Culture, a website showcasing the Tahoe-Truckee region's artistic culture has a bumper sticker "Keep Tahoe Culture" on its site. Creator and owner Becky Bell told *LTN*, "I was proactive. I went through the proper channels. I wrote a proposal (to the League) on my program, which is community-based. I changed my colors on purpose to be natural colors. I made sure it was different, because my website is different."

• Keep Tahoe Local – Sells "Keep Tahoe Local" branded merchandise, including sweat shirts, T-shirts, tank tops, hats and car decals. *LTN* spoke briefly with owner Casey Eberhart, who declined to answer questions. Keep Tahoe Local attempted to trademark its logo (a sweat shirt with an image of the lake and the words "Keep Tahoe Local" next to it) with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office in 2006. The League contested the registration and it was denied. The application was marked as "abandoned" in October 2006 because Eberhart did not respond to the denial within six months. Merchandise continues to be

sold on its site.

• Keep Tahoe Kind – Lake Tahoe Humane Society and SPCA. Nonprofit using the words "Keep Tahoe Kind" and a pawprint. According to Dawn Armstrong, executive director, "We did that many, many years ago, around 1992. That's our signature; we have it all over, on our website, our letterhead, the bumper sticker. Before we did I called the League and talked to them about it. They said they appreciated that I had the courtesy to call them and they said it would be OK."

• Keep Tahoe Clean – The Clean Tahoe Program, a South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County-funded litter and nuisance abatement nonprofit, uses an image of the lake and the words, "Keep Tahoe Clean" in many of its promotional materials. Ellen Nunes, program manager, told *LTN*, "Clean Tahoe has never been contacted by the League in any way regarding our use of those words."

• Keep Tahoe Green – Tahoe Hemp Company. Sells merchandise and bumper stickers bearing a logo with an image of the lake filled with hemp next to the slogan "Keep Tahoe Green." Owner Rick Krantz told *LTN*, "I've always displayed the League's stickers in the store next to mine. I'm sure they've seen them and know that. I give the donations (for League stickers) back to the League. I've had Keep Tahoe Green for 10 years. It's on my business card and everything." Asked if anyone from the League had expressed concerns regarding his slogan, Krantz replied, "No. No one has expressed concern."

• Keep Tahoe Seductive – Blue Turtle Seduction band. Sells "Keep Tahoe Seductive" Sticker. Web text describes it as, "Blue Bumper Sticker with the 'Keep Tahoe Seductive' design in Light Blue. This sticker mimicks (sic) the famous League to Save Lake Tahoe's 'Keep Tahoe Blue' sticker seen all over Tahoe and the country." No response received to inquiries prior to deadline.

• Keep Tahoe Washo – The Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada. According to the League's written statement, "We are open to talking to nonprofits about the use of our logo. 'Keep Tahoe Washoe' is an example of one that approached us and that we approved."

• Building Green to Keep Tahoe Blue – Advance Design & Construction, Incline Village. They attempted to trademark "Building Green to Keep Tahoe Blue," but were denied by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office due to the similarity with the League's Keep Tahoe Blue trademark in April 2010. Owner Jeff Miller told *LTN*, "Two days after the denial, the League contacted me to say they didn't want people to assume our two organizations were connected in any way. They didn't want anybody to confuse their goals with my goals. I tried to explain that what I'm doing went along with their goals. (The firm is building a LEED-certified home in Incline.) I invited them to come and see the project and what it was I was trying to do and to look at our website. I spoke with their attorney, who was very pleasant. We agreed I could use 'Building Green to Keep Tahoe Beautiful' on the site." (Miller is in the process of having references to "Building Green to Keep Tahoe Blue" removed.) "I was very surprised by the League's reaction, but we're abiding by it."

• Keep Tahoe Real – Domain name of an action sports culture website featuring film, art and photography. No response to *LTN*'s inquiry before deadline.

These are just the tip of the trademark, so to speak, but they illustrate how complex the issue is. As of late Sept.2, the League had not filed a formal "trademark infringement" action against Keep Tahoe Fit. In the written statement, the League responded to Keep Tahoe Fit's change of logo, "We only learned of his recent change on Aug. 31, but we remain concerned that his new logo trades off our long-established, iconic logo and that it remains a copy of the sticker that has long identified the League."

Minnes told *LTN* Thursday afternoon that the League has again protested to Facebook that the Keep Tahoe Fit page is "abusive." The logo has been removed, and replaced with a photo, but the page remains up. Minnes has contacted Facebook requesting that the logo be reinstated. He has not received any additional communications from the League's attorney.

South Tahoe bird tests positive for West Nile virus

The El Dorado County Environmental Management and Health Services departments received confirmation Sept. 1 that a bird found in the South Lake Tahoe area tested positive for West Nile virus, the first for 2010.

The bird, a Western Scrub-Jay, was found Aug. 24. A second positive bird, a Swainson's hawk, was also reported for El Dorado County on Wednesday; however, it is believed that the bird was brought into El Dorado County from Mono County.

So far this year, West Nile virus activity has been reported in 30 California counties, including neighboring Sacramento and Placer counties. There have been 34 human cases and 11 horse cases of West Nile virus reported in California in 2010.

"Confirmation of our first West Nile virus positive birds means the virus is circulating between birds and mosquitoes and there is a heightened risk of infection in humans," Virginia Huber, Tahoe division manager of the Environmental Management Department, said in a statement. "Residents are urged to take extra precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites."

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes pick up the virus when they feed on infected birds. The illness is not spread from person-to-person. Most people infected with West Nile virus show no symptoms. However, some people may experience high fever, severe headache, tiredness and/or a stiff neck that may last several days to several weeks. The most serious cases of West Nile virus infection can lead to encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain, which can be fatal. Long-term neurological problems have also been seen in some survivors of severe West Nile virus infection.

Mosquito surveillance programs are in place throughout the county. Programs include trapping and testing mosquitoes, reporting neglected swimming pools, and reporting and testing dead birds and tree squirrels. In addition, the Health Services Department has instituted human surveillance activities, and physicians are encouraged to routinely test human cases of viral meningitis and encephalitis for West Nile virus.

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes, Huber recommends:

• Eliminate mosquito breeding sources by draining all standing water around property. Keep water in swimming pools, ponds and water troughs circulating or treated with “Mosquito Dunks” or mosquito fish.

• Apply insect repellent that contains DEET or another approved substance (e.g. picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535) on exposed skin when outdoors (always read and follow label instructions).

• Mosquitoes are most active at dusk and dawn. While outside among mosquitoes, dress in long sleeves and long pants.

• Make sure doors and windows have tight fitting screens, kept in good condition.

• Report dead birds and tree squirrels to the State West Nile Virus hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD (877-968-2473) or online at www.westnile.ca.gov. Wear gloves and place dead birds or squirrels in a double plastic bag if disposing of them yourself.

Report mosquito problems and/or neglected swimming pools to the El Dorado County Environmental Management Department at (530) 621.5300 in Placerville or (530) 573.3450 in South Lake Tahoe. Additional West Nile virus information is available at www.westnile.ca.gov or www.edcgov.us/emd.

Solution to quagga mussels to be tested

By Lily Leung, San Diego Union Tribune

A promising solution to the quagga-mussel invasion that threatens water supplies in San Diego and other parts of the West could soon be tested in open waters for the first time in the U.S., a leading quagga expert said Monday.

That news and other developments in the fight against the invasive species will be shared this week at a San Diego conference about aquatic invaders.

Quagga mussels and their close relatives, zebra mussels, have been particularly challenging to researchers in recent years because they reproduce at alarming rates and clog water supply systems. The critters have been a costly nuisance for water suppliers and harmful to the ecosystem.

Read the whole story

South Tahoe woman dies in kayaking accident

Susan Marie Kaiser of South Lake Tahoe died Aug. 29 in a kayaking accident on the North Fork of the Feather River. She was 37.

Kaiser was the fire and fuels coordinator for Lake Valley Fire Protection District for the past two years. Prior to that she worked for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Kaiser was on the water with friends when her foot apparently got stuck under a rock. By the time she was pulled to shore, life-saving efforts were unsuccessful.



Susan Marie Kaiser

Being on the water was a big part of Kaiser’s life. Last December she and 13 others spent 25 days rafting the Colorado River.

The fire department is having full honors for Kaiser on Sept. 4 at 9am at Tahoe Paradise Park. This is the first time Lake Valley has lost an active member of its staff. She was considered the face of fuels reduction and was well known in the fire community.

Kaiser was also on the board of the Sugar Pine Foundation.

“Susie had worked for years on fire and forestry related issues in the Tahoe basin. She had contact with thousands of homeowners over the years and was widely known and loved,” said John Pickett of the Sugar Pine Foundation. “This is a real tragedy and she will be missed by many.”

Lack of consensus on how to rebuild N. Nevada economy

By Bill O’Driscoll, Reno Gazette-Journal

Northern Nevada business leaders remain strongly pessimistic about the economy and the prospects for recovery, the Sierra Region Economic Outlook Mid-Year Business Survey shows.

After nearly 63 percent of respondents rating economic conditions as poor or very poor, experts this month said the findings serve notice that change, from infrastructure to education, is needed to pull Northern Nevada’s business sector out of the recession.

“It’s another wake-up call for diversification,” said Brian Bonnenfant, project manager at the Center for Regional Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. “We can’t have all our eggs in the construction and tourism basket. We’re not there yet. We’re struggling to find that next silver bullet.”

The center and the UNR College of Business sponsored the biannual online survey of more than 7,700 area business leaders, taken July 7-Aug. 2.

The survey drew 689 responses, the highest return in the seven

years since it was first circulated.

Read the whole story

Plastic bag ban defeated by California lawmakers

By Susan Ferriss and Jim Sanders, Sacramento Bee

A measure to ban plastic carryout bags in supermarkets, drug and convenience stores was defeated late Tuesday in the state Senate, where key lawmakers said it could prove too costly for consumers.

The proposal to make California the first state to institute such a ban was designed to go into effect in large stores in 2012 and smaller stores in 2013.

By July 2012, big stores would be allowed to charge customers, at cost only, for recycled paper bags.

Lawmakers debated the bill as they worked toward a midnight deadline. The measure received just 14 votes, with 20 opposed.

Read the whole story

Court: Lakeview Commons

construction work must stop

By Kathryn Reed

South Lake Tahoe's second stalled hole in the ground became a reality this week when a judge granted a construction firm's injunction request to bring work at the Lakeview Commons project to a halt.

"What we're seeking is to have the job awarded to us and we complete the work," BJ Sullivan, president of Clark & Sullivan Construction, told *Lake Tahoe News*. In support of the Sparks company writ is the local Carpenters Union.



The dilapidated wall at El Dorado Beach will be destroyed and rebuilt. Photo/Kathryn Reed

El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Steve Bailey signed the injunction Aug. 30 at 4pm. A hearing is scheduled for Sept. 17. It is not known if Bailey will make a decision that day.

Work may continue at the site through Friday to shore up erosion issues. Essentially, it is being winterized. Even though it was never going to be available to Labor Day crowds,

the minimum three-week delay could affect locals and visitors next year. With it being directly across from Campground by the Lake, this beach and picnic area is a huge draw for campers.

“If it doesn’t go our way, I don’t know how it will play out,” Jim Marino, South Lake Tahoe assistant engineer, said. “July 15, 2011, it was supposed to be done. We were hoping to have it a little in advance for the July 4 weekend. The longer this plays out, the worse this is going to get (to meet the deadline.)”

It will be South Lake Tahoe’s responsibility to defend the bid process in court. It will be up to Clark & Sullivan’s attorney to prove the bid process for the multi-million project at El Dorado Beach was not fair.

The bid process became a bit convoluted this summer. On Aug. 3, the City Council voted 4-1 to award the nearly $4.5 million project to Reeve-Knight Construction out of Roseville. At that meeting Clark & Sullivan petitioned the bid award, saying their competitor’s numbers for subcontractor work v. in-house work were wrong. The Sparks firm was picked as the lower bidder in the first round that was subsequently quashed by the council in June.

The difference between the two firms’ bids the second time around was close to a half million dollars. Legally, the city has to pick the lowest responsive bidder. Responsive is the key word because even though Clark & Sullivan was not the low bidder, the company believes it was the most responsive.

(Calls to Reeve Knight’s CEO, president and VP of operations were not returned.)

Sullivan said the city “over-stepped” its responsibility by allowing Reeve Knight to adjust figures to meet the bid criteria.

To that, the city has repeatedly said, the clarifications being sought by the low bidder were minor.

Neither the city nor Clark & Sullivan has been in this predicament before, so authorities aren't sure what to expect next. If the city prevails in court, it would like to use the remainder of the grading season, which ends Oct. 15, to get the foundation of the non-motorized boathouse in. If the city loses, it's likely the site will be closed until May 1, when dirt can be moved again.

It's possible the bid process could have to start from scratch, or one of the two firms involved will prevail.

(Whatever the outcome, the project is not destined to go the route of the stalled convention center – which hasn't seen a construction worker on that property in years and remains mired in bankruptcy court for at least another 120 days per the judge's ruling last week.)

Funding for the project is coming from the California Tahoe Conservancy. The state agency isn't about to take sides as to which firm should do the work.

"This is a large project. The important thing is to do it right, do it well, on time and on budget," said Peter Eichar, CTC associate environmental planner. "This (injunction) does not jeopardize Conservancy funding."

Stopping work will hit the local economy. A number of the subcontractors were local. Supplies were being bought locally. Clark & Sullivan had not proposed to use the number of local subs that Reeve Knight is using.

Before *Lake Tahoe News* or Andrew Galicia knew about the injunction, he said the project was ahead of schedule. He runs GB General, an excavating firm based in South Tahoe since the 1950s.

It took less than two days to fell 52 trees. His company was supposed to do all the site work. Now his employees are without work.



What El Dorado Beach area will look like in summer 2011.

Plans call for creating a terraced sitting area, revamped picnic/barbecue sites, access for all, storage for canoes/kayaks, rest rooms and overall upgrades of this stretch of shoreline. The rest of what once was called the 56-acreproject will be built in phases.

“If it turns out the way it’s supposed to, you really can use it,” Galicia said of the beach and barbecue areas.