

Adult filmmaker plans Dugard movie

Contra Costa Times

SACRAMENTO — An adult filmmaker plans to base a movie on the case of Jaycee Dugard, the rape and kidnap victim who was discovered to be living in the backyard of a home near Antioch for 18 years.

According to Sacramento TV station CBS 13, Shane Ryan, an actor and low budget underground filmmaker behind such straight-to-DVD movies as "Amateur Porn Star Killer" and "Sex, Kids, Party," wants to make a movie called "Abducted Girl: An American Sex Slave," based on the Dugard kidnapping.

Read the whole story

Tahoe City teen dies in dirt bike accident

By Barbara Barte Osborn, Sacramento Bee

TAHOE CITY — A 17-year-old Tahoe City youth died over the weekend after being ejected from an off-road vehicle.

Evan Norman was pronounced dead at the scene Saturday by Placer County Sheriff's deputies.

County Chief Deputy Coroner Dennis Watt said Norman died of head injuries.

Read the whole story

Snow is on its way

Apparently all those snow calls at last week's Sierra-at-Tahoe party were heard because the forecast for the next few days is for a bunch of white stuff in Lake Tahoe.

Snow and rain is supposed to arrive tonight, with a couple inches accumulating at lake level. This means even more will be falling on the slopes.



Don't expect a repeat tonight of this sunset Nov. 16 at the Tahoe Keys pier in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Kathryn Reed

Expect it to be windy on Wednesday and Thursday, with temps in the 40s during the day.

Thursday night and into Friday is when the bigger storm is expected to hit. Friday's high is forecast to be 31 degrees " the day Heavenly opens. (Bring the fatties.) That high is at the lake, not on the mountain.

It won't warm up much on Saturday, but the sun is expected to be out when Squaw's lifts start turning on what could be a powder day.

Tahoe economy dependent on skiers

By Kathryn Reed

For the person schussing down one of the myriad slopes in and around Lake Tahoe, it's all about fun.

For the people running the resort, it's a business. Skiing impacts a variety of industries — lodging, restaurants, massage, retail and others. If the resorts don't do well, no one does well.



With the Ritz-Carlton opening Dec. 9 at Northstar, it may bring an infusion of cash to the North Shore.
Photo/Kathryn

Reed

The California Ski Area Association says the 4.2 million skier visits each year in Lake Tahoe make it a \$600 million industry. The organization says a skier visit equates to \$150 per day being spent at Tahoe businesses.

The past couple of ski seasons have been less than stellar, though.

It's hard to know if the ski resorts have hurt themselves by starting the season so early – Mammoth and Boreal opened in October, albeit not every day. Before snowmaking became what it is, the Lake Tahoe area was lucky to have good snow at Christmas.

Now skiers expect to be on their boards at Thanksgiving. If they aren't, the Bay Area media write and broadcast stories about the lackluster snowfall and predictions for a bad ski season. It's silly, false, wrong and just bad journalism.

Those media types also have a penchant for playing up big storms that turn out to be mini-events – but it keeps people from making the trek to Tahoe. For locals, it makes for a fabulous, uncrowded powder day.

The reality, though, is California and Nevada departments of transportation know how to clear highways of snow. And forecasts miss the mark more often than they hit a bull's eye.

It is true that fingers are crossed, snow dances are under way and all eyes are on Mother Nature. After all, it doesn't matter what new lift, event, five-star hotel or menu item a resort comes up with, if the snow isn't good and plentiful, the skiers stay home.

They did that in 2008-09. The National Ski Areas Association said in Tahoe the number of skier visits was down 10 percent

last year compared to 2007-08. In part this was because of the spastic snowfall, part because of the economy.

One positive about the recession may be those on the West Coast who want to ride will do so closer to home instead of flying to Colorado or Utah.

Pundits in the ski industry are cautiously optimistic the 2009-10 season will be better than last year. It's possible with the Olympics at Whistler in February it may generate enthusiasm for winter sports. It might also drive people to Tahoe instead of Canada because they don't want to deal with the chaos.

It was 1960 that the Winter Olympics were last on the West Coast of North America – when Squaw Valley welcomed the world, and in turn put Tahoe on the map.

Squaw is capitalizing on the 50-year anniversary with a slew of events. Olympic Heritage Celebration is Jan. 8-17. For details, go to www.SquawValley1960Celebration.com.

Squaw is one of many resorts looking to attract more skiers and boarders. The North Shore resort once sold season passes for as much as \$1,900; now they are as low as \$369.

Across the lake at Heavenly Mountain Resort the current season pass is \$369, but it had been \$329 – what it was a few years ago.

One of the best deals continues to be the Learn to Ski or Board program on the North Shore for \$25 on Dec. 12-13. Details are at www.gotahoenorth.com.

Sierra-at-Tahoe (www.sierraattahoe.com) is selling three-packs of lift tickets for \$45 per ticket through the end of the year.

Northstar is banking on the Dec. 9 opening of the Ritz-Carlton at the top of the gondola to make it the resort of choice.

For those who don't have a season pass, check out REI, Costco, Snowbomb.com, and DiscountLiftTickets.net for deals on daily tickets. Once in Tahoe, sometimes deals can be found, too " but most are found off the hill.

Be sure to read *Lake Tahoe News* all week to find out what is going on with nine of the Lake Tahoe area ski resorts for the 2009-10 ski season.

Air ambulance crashes near Reno, 3 dead

Tom Darby, KOH AM-780

A Mountain Life Flight Helicopter out of Susanville crashed this morning 15 miles north of the Nevada-California stateline. Three crew members on board are confirmed dead at this time.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident.

The flight was on a return flight from transporting a patient to Renown Medical Center in Reno.

Veteran attorney takes Nancy

Garrido case

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

The intrigue over who will serve as accused kidnapper Nancy Garrido's attorney continued Thursday as a judge in Placerville appointed a new attorney to replace the one he removed last week.



Nancy Garrido

Veteran defense attorney Stephen A. Tapson was appointed Thursday to represent Garrido at least until a hearing on the matter is held Nov. 30 in El Dorado Superior Court.

Read the whole story

SLTPD Chief Daniels leaving

By Kathryn Reed

Embattled South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Terry Daniels is calling it quits after more than 27 years in law enforcement.

As part of a reorganization plan that will be before the City Council on Tuesday, a number of jobs are likely to go by the wayside. This doesn't mean there won't be a police chief or

building inspector (Ron Ticknor may be retiring as well), but having people on the higher end of the pay scale retire will save money.



Terry Daniels

“Early retirement is being offered to the chief and to some line people,” City Manager Dave Jinkens told *Lake Tahoe News* on Friday night. “We are not trying to get rid of people.”

But the city is trying to eliminate positions in an attempt to save about \$1 million a year.

Furlough days are still going to be part of the mix even with the retirements. It’s expected city workers will have to take four in December and then two days each month through September – the end of the fiscal year.

Most employees are also feeling a 9.23 percent cut in pay in 2009-10.

In addition to the restructuring of city government, the budget is also on the Nov. 17 agenda. The fiscal year began Oct. 1, therefore the city has been operating without a final budget.

Other people expected to leave the police department are officers Chuck Owens, who has been with the department for more than 20 years, has had stints on the FBI and local narcotics task force; and Scott Willson, who is currently the school resource officer at South Tahoe High School.

It is up to each employee if he wants to accept the golden

handshake. They have 90 days to make up their minds.

Retirements in the fire department and public works are also expected.

"Our goal was the equivalent of five people," Jinkens said. "It could be more."

Getting to this point

The city has been working with its various labor groups to rework the contracts to allow for furlough days and the reduction in staff. Those memorandums of understanding will be before the council on Tuesday.

The police officers association has been holding out, not wanting to compromise because of the dissatisfaction with Daniels as well as Jinkens.

An email that was sent by the association's labor consultant, David Swim, to Jinkens Nov. 13 says in part, "In response to your letter, the Association feels as though our proposal of having three frozen positions and potential retirees will clearly meet your initial budget objective. We are concerned and disappointed that our suggestion for cost savings was not considered. We provided what we viewed a viable alternative to address the city's financial deficit and in doing so avoided any additional job losses, furloughs or other negative impact. Since the department has been functioning for the prior 6-7 months down three sworn positions we felt by keeping those same three positions frozen, in conjunction with some scheduling adjustments and the addition of an officer who had been absent for almost three years, we could actually offer better service to the residents of the city."

Jinkens response to Swim was, "Actually, your proposals for cost savings have been considered and this consideration is reflected in the proposed budget. I previously communicated this fact in a lengthy memo this a.m. though in more general

terms. The cost containment measures do not require MOU amendments though impacts may need discussion, but the value of the conversation has resulted in the needed cost reductions for this fiscal year based on our budget assumptions.

“In summary, the cost reductions will come from projected early retirements including the retirement of the Chief of Police, backfilling of the Chief position with an interim appointment until a permanent vacancy is filled and then a likely management reorganization and reduction of one upper command staff, freezing of anticipated vacant CSO position and leaving unfilled one sworn officer position.

“What the future holds in regard to the City’s ability to pay will depend on the economy and require additional discussions with you and Association members in the future.”

Terry Daniels

Daniels, 52, has spent the bulk of his career with the local force. He started in January 1983 after working as a deputy for a year with the El Dorado County Sheriff’s Department.

He became a sergeant in 1991 and not long after added another stripe to become a lieutenant.

Daniels became the eighth chief of police in July 2006. He had worked for four of those chiefs.

Prior to taking the helm of the department, the chief, who was unavailable for comment, was involved in a slew of interesting cases.

He was on the force in 1989 when then Mayor Terry Trupp was arrested on a variety of federal crimes – mostly drug related in what the FBI called Operation Deep Snow. Trupp recently died after serving a number of years behind bars.

Daniels was the supervising officer in 2001 the day 9-year-old Rebecca Aramburo was found with her throat slashed at

Campground by the Lake. Her mother is in prison for that crime, while her mother's boyfriend committed suicide in jail.

He has also been involved in controversial officer involved shootings.

Daniels is highly regarded in K9 circles for his command with his German shepherds through the years.

In August he was part of the parade of thousands who celebrated the release of Jaycee Lee Dugard who had been kidnapped from a Meyers bus stop 18 years earlier.

It has been the last three years that have caused Daniels the most strife. He vigilantly fought to have Officer Johnny Poland fired and kept off the force for an incident at the high school in 2006. Last month a judge ruled Poland should be given his badge back.

Earlier this year Daniels did little to discipline his friend Sgt. Jeff Regan. Regan had been arrested on a DUI charge – this coming after he had a prior arrest, though no conviction, stemming from allegedly hitting his wife.

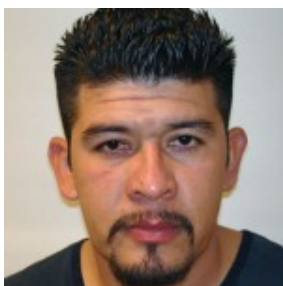
A scathing grand jury report in 2008 left more questions unanswered – about his leadership and the morale within the department.

In his three-plus years, Daniels was able to increase staffing to a level officers are no longer complaining about. He also has been an active member of the Youth Task Force, through which he got the Police Activities League going again.

Suspect in jail on meth trafficking charges

A Pollock Pines resident was arrested in Stateline on Tuesday for allegedly trafficking in a controlled substance.

Francisco Reyes-Vizcarra, 31, was booked into the jail at Stateline on felony for charges.



Francisco
Reyes-Vizcarra

Members of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Street Enforcement Team, working with the Western El Dorado Narcotic Enforcement Team (WENET), arrested Reyes-Vizcarra in a Stateline casino parking lot.

Officers confiscated 116.5 grams of methamphetamine that the suspect reportedly transported from California to Nevada. The methamphetamine is estimated to have a street value of approximately \$11,000.

The arrest was the culmination of more than a month-long investigation. During the course of the investigation, investigators performed a number of surveillance operations, during which they observed Reyes-Vizcarra conduct several drug trafficking activities between Placerville and Stateline.

Reyes-Vizcarra has been deported times for criminal activity, investigators said. Because of this, he was being held without

bail.

Phillip Garrido apologizes in letter

KCRA TV

SACRAMENTO – In his third jailhouse letter to KCRA 3, Phillip Garrido issued an apology “for what has taken place” and referenced “ending a sexual problem believed to be impossible.”



Phillip
Garrido

Garrido is the convicted rapist accused of kidnapping Jaycee Lee Dugard nearly two decades ago and holding her in a backyard compound at his Contra Costa County home. He's also believed to have fathered two children with her.

Read the whole story

South Tahoe business license fees may go up

Business license fees might be going up in South Lake Tahoe.

As a way to generate money and make the system more equitable, the City Council has decided to discuss the topic further at its Dec. 8 meeting. The annual fee is based on gross income. There are minimums and maximums. The council is contemplating changing the cap, though it's likely all fees could go up.

It's possible the idea would be put before the voters in June.