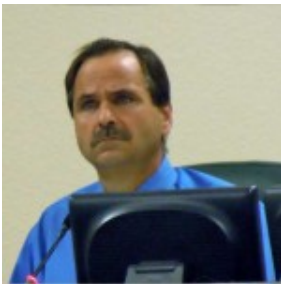


Ex-EDC Supervisor Nutting loses appeal

By Kathryn Reed

Ray Nutting, the El Dorado County supervisor who lost his seat because of criminal wrongdoing, today lost his appeal regarding that case. He believes the charges were always politically motivated.

The 55-year-old's troubles started in 2013 when he faced four felony counts regarding more than \$70,000 he received from the state to clear brush from his 350-acre ranch in Somerset. A jury found him not guilty on those felony charges.



Ray Nutting

In the end, Nutting was convicted on misdemeanor charges related to taking loans from a county employee and a contractor who does business with the county, and for failing to document the loans. His punishment was probation and being removed from office.

The money was to be used to bail him out of jail.

He challenged the lower court's decision in the Third Appellate District on five counts.

The appellate court made its decision public Nov. 29 – denying each of Nutting's contentions.

"... none of the three lenders deposited the bail money with the county," the decision reads. The money was given to Nutting's wife with the intent to use it for bail and for it to eventually be repaid. That is why the funds are deemed a loan. Had the money gone directly to the county, Nutting would not have been convicted of violating his duties of an elected official.

"Our argument is the jury should have acknowledged the money as bail money," Nutting told *Lake Tahoe News* on Tuesday.

The court document says, "The only intent required to violate the Government Code sections at issue here was the general intent to receive a personal loan from a county employee or contractor who does business with the county. What the parties to the loan intend the borrower to do with the money is irrelevant."

In the appeal Nutting tried to persuade the judges "that the exchange of money between him and those who gave him the money was a trust arrangement or a bailment."

The appeals courts dismissed that argument because Nutting had never made that contention before. Without the Attorney General's Office or district court able to weigh in on that theory, the appellate court said it could not respond to it.

With that said the court went on to say, "In any event, the theory does not help him." Then the justices cited case law to prove their point.

Nutting said, "I don't know if this is the end or what we are going to do."

He learned about the decision when *Lake Tahoe News* called and had not yet spoken to his attorney.

This same appellate court in July 2014 upheld that June's decision of Superior Court Judge Timothy Buckley which said

Nutting should be removed from office.

Nutting had also **sued former colleagues** last summer for harassment. He eventually dropped that case for what he said were more pressing family issues.

Purses stolen from restrooms at Stateline casinos

Douglas County sheriff's deputies are looking for a woman they believe stole women's purses at two Stateline casinos.



Law enforcement is looking for this woman.

Photo/Provided

The department just today is notifying the public about the Oct. 22 thefts.

In both incidents the victims went into the women's bathroom – one at Harrah's, the other at MontBleu – and a few minutes later could not locate their purses. This was between the hours of 6 and 8pm.

Deputies said camera surveillance shows a black female adult wearing a black jacket and blue jeans entering both restrooms with a large black handbag that appears empty. When the woman exits it appears that the black handbag is full.

Both victims had cash, credit cards and passports taken.

A reward is being offered to anyone with information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the suspect. Call DCSO dispatch at 775.782.5126 or Douglas County Secret Witness at 775.782.7463.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Revenue plummets in October at Stateline casinos

Stateline casinos went the opposite direction of the state in October, with casino winnings dropping from the previous year.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board on Nov. 29 reported an 11.1 percent statewide increase over last year to \$986.2 million.

For the South Shore, the numbers were down 22.2 percent to \$14.2 million.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

El Dorado County crews rescue missing couple

By Ellen Garrison, Sacramento Bee

A Yuba City couple missing in snowy El Dorado County since Sunday were found in their snowbound SUV by searchers on Monday afternoon.

Rory and Susan Holloter, both in their 60s, were ferried to safety on snowmobiles. Both were in good condition, said sheriff's department spokeswoman Sgt. Tasha Thompson.

They were brought back to a command center on Wentworth Springs Road late Monday afternoon where they were reunited with waiting family members.

Read the whole story

Water a factor in Nevada's economic diversification

By Nicole Raz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

A company's potential water use, in some cases, is the deciding factor in whether Nevada will provide tax incentives.

"We have discouraged a couple of companies (considering relocating for tax abatements) that we felt were water users of such significance, particularly in comparison to the jobs and quality of jobs," said Steve Hill, director of the

governor's office of economic development.

As state officials work to attract tech and advanced manufacturing companies, they have to reconcile economic development with water conservation. Water is a limited resource in Nevada, and state officials weigh a potential company's impact on the state's water supply against potential job creation and other economic benefits.

Nevada gets the majority of its water supply from the Colorado River basin. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation allocates 300,000 acre-feet of water per year from the basin to Nevada. Hill said that because of credits for recycling water, Nevada functionally ends up with an annual amount of 475,000 acre-feet.

Read the whole story

Top court to review curbs on Calif. pension spiking

By Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle

The California Supreme Court jumped into a high-stakes dispute over public employee pensions last week, agreeing to decide whether laws aimed at limiting preretirement actions to inflate future benefits can be applied to millions of government workers.

A state appeals court in San Francisco ruled in a Marin County case in August that the new laws could be applied to current employees – a potentially major setback for the workers and their unions, and a victory for local governments facing

mounting deficits in their pension plans. But the state's high court voted unanimously to put that ruling on hold while it reviews the issue for a future statewide resolution.

A final decision is at least a year away.

Read the whole story

SUV slides across Tahoe ski slope, 5 injured



Emergency crews tend to victims in a vehicle accident at Heavenly on Nov. 26. Photo/David Cook

By Kathryn Reed

Five people were taken to Barton Memorial Hospital on Saturday after the vehicle they were riding in ended up careening down World Cup run at Heavenly Mountain Resort and then landing upside down in the parking lot at California Lodge.

The Toyota 4Runner lost control about 4:30pm Nov. 26 as it came down Keller Road. There is about a 90-degree right turn. The driver was not able to handle the icy conditions.

Instead of staying on the pavement, the vehicle went onto the ski slope, picked up more speed and then went over a 12-foot retaining wall, landing on the roof of the SUV.

“Several people self-extricated. Heavenly ski patrol started rendering aid immediately,” South Lake Tahoe Battalion Chief Jim Drennan told *Lake Tahoe News*. “When we arrived they had two people on backboards.”

The parking lot was fairly empty because the California side of the ski resort is not open.

There were seven people in the vehicle. Of the five injured, one was four months pregnant. None of the injuries was life threatening. The group was from out of town.

“I want to stress the importance of driving slow in bad driving conditions. Certainly when you are going downhill on icy streets you need to go slow,” Drennan said.

Couple missing in snowy El Dorado County

By KCRA-TV

Rescue crews will resume the search this morning for a missing couple who became stuck in snow while driving in El Dorado County, officials said.

Rory and Susan Holloter of Yuba City were last seen in the

rural mountainous area of Wentworth Springs and Ice House roads, the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office said.

The husband and wife went for a drive in their white Dodge truck about 9am Saturday, officials said. They were last heard from about 12:40pm Sunday when they sent a text to family members that they were stuck in the snow.

Read the whole story

Struggles of starting kindergarten with few skills

By Teresa Watanabe, Los Angeles Times

Giuliana Tapia was way behind her classmates.

She was just 5 years old, starting kindergarten at Telesis Academy of Science and Math in West Covina.

At a kindergarten screening two months before her first day, she happily chattered about her dog Toodles, her favorite color pink, her Santa Claus pajamas, her nickname Gigi, her outings with dad to see SpongeBob SquarePants movies.

But many of her 21 classmates already knew most of the alphabet, colors and shapes. Two of them could even read all 100 words – at, the, there, like – that kindergartners are expected to know by the end of the year.

About half had been to preschool; Giuliana had not.

"I don't know," she said when she was asked to identify letters on a sheet of paper.

Nev. FBI chief: 'I want to take down the barriers'

By Ricardo Torres-Cortez, Las Vegas Sun

With an American flag pin on his lapel and an assertive smile on his face, the new special agent in charge of the FBI's Las Vegas Division introduced himself. Appointed by FBI Director James Comey, Aaron Rouse compared his first days on the job back in September to drinking from a firehose, adding that it was a "good hectic."

Rouse started his career in law enforcement 25 years ago as a New York state trooper, and he's been with the FBI for two decades, working violent crime and then forming part of a fugitive task force in the agency's Washington Field Office. He has held leadership positions in Florida and Texas, and before moving to Las Vegas was section chief in the Counterintelligence Division at FBI headquarters.

The federal agency, which also has satellite offices in Reno, Elko and Stateline, participates in several local law enforcement task forces, including targeting drugs, crime and counterterrorism. It also was an essential component of the Nevada Election Day Integrity Task Force, undertaking investigations into election fraud complaints or voting abuses.

Read the whole story