

Abduction case ends with SLT kids' safe return

A South Lake Tahoe mother has been reunited with her two children after their father allegedly abducted them.

Scott Selger was arrested near Rosarito Beach in Mexico. He will be extradited to El Dorado County where he faces a slew of charges. Bail has been set at \$500,000.



Scott Selger

Neither of the 9-year-olds was harmed during the two-week ordeal that ended Sept. 1.

Selger, who lives in Chula Vista, was supposed to return the children on Aug. 15.

According to officials, El Dorado County district attorney Investigator Bryan Kuhlmann, along with family members, spent hours communicating with Selger during the past week via Skype and phone to negotiate the return of the children. These efforts did not pan out.

On Sept. 1 at about 2pm, Selger's vehicle was located in Rosarito with him and the children nearby. He was then detained.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Scuba diver dies near Glenbrook

A scuba diver died at Lake Tahoe on Monday.

The 63-year-old man, whose name and hometown have not been released, was diving with friends near Glenbrook on Sept. 5. They were exploring the wreckage of the SS Tahoe at a depth of about 360 feet.

“The victim and his diving companions are experienced divers and had completed a similar dive at the same wreckage the day before,” Douglas County sheriff’s deputies said in a statement. “The victim made an emergency ascent to the surface for unknown reasons. When he reached the surface he was unconscious and not responsive.”

His friends and first responders were not able to revive him.

The incident is under investigation.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Congress not expected to do much as election looms

By Andrew Taylor, AP

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers return to Washington this week for an

abbreviated election-season session in which they will likely do what they do best: the bare minimum.

All Congress must do this month is keep the government from shutting down on Oct. 1 and, with any luck, finally provide money for the fight against the mosquito-borne Zika virus. Republicans controlling Congress promise they won't stumble now, but the weeks ahead could prove tricky.

A chief motivation for the September session, especially for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is allowing lawmakers to return to campaigning as soon as possible. Republicans are scrambling to hold onto their Senate edge as GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump lags in the polls.

The short-term spending measure is sure to pass. The alternative is that Republicans would get the blame for a government shutdown, as they did in 2013.

But it's a complicated path for the temporary spending bill. Some House conservatives say the measure should last into next year, when there is a new president and a new Congress, and that would block any chance for a session after the Nov. 8 election. Leaders in both parties feel otherwise – as does President Obama – and a temporary measure until December seems to be the consensus.

"We are not doing anything into next year and every Republican should be aware of that right now," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Lawmakers left Washington seven weeks ago without resolving a dispute over money for Zika. The virus can cause severe birth defects and is linked to a host of other maladies. Obama asked Congress in February for \$1.9 billion in emergency money, but legislation to partially pay for his proposal collapsed in July amid various fights. Among them was a Republican provision to deny money to Puerto Rican affiliates of Planned Parenthood.

Because the shutdown-prevention measure simply has to pass, it's a tempting target for lawmakers seeking to use it as a vehicle for their preferences. For instance, Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., is pressing for emergency grants to help communities in his flood-ravaged state to recover.

"I hope we can accomplish that in September," Cassidy said.

But GOP leaders probably will try to keep the spending bill as free of unrelated additions as possible, especially now. If GOP leaders were to grant Cassidy's request, it would make it more difficult to say no to others, such as Democrats seeking money for fixing the lead-tainted water system of Flint, Mich.

House conservatives are looking to press ahead with impeaching IRS Commissioner John Koskinen over the destruction of agency emails and misleading testimony on whether the tax agency, before his arrival, improperly scrutinized conservative groups seeking nonprofit status. The impeachment drive is a headache for Republicans who believe that Koskinen's conduct isn't serious enough to warrant impeachment, but who may be reluctant to support the Democratic appointee in such a politically charged environment.

In a recent memo, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said lawmakers will take up legislation regarding the Obama administration's \$400 million payment to Iran in January, made immediately after four U.S. prisoners were released. The payment, for undelivered arms to the shah of Iran, was made on the same day of the prisoner release, and Republicans call it "ransom." The as-yet-unreleased legislation is designed to prevent a repeat, but seems like an election-season messaging effort.

McConnell also wants to advance a popular water projects measure. But the priority is to simply adjourn the chamber to allow embattled incumbents such as Sens. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Richard Burr, R-N.C., to get back home

and campaign for re-election against the political headwinds created by Trump.

The abbreviated session should give GOP-run committees a final pre-election chance to hold hearings on the Obama administration and other targets such as EpiPen manufacturer Mylan, N.V. That company has come under withering criticism for steep price increases for its life-saving injector, which can stop potentially fatal allergic reactions to insect bites and stings, and foods such as peanuts and eggs.

House Republicans are promising hearings on Hillary Clinton's emails. FBI Director James Comey criticized Clinton's use of a homebrew email server to handle sensitive work-related emails as "extremely careless," but said his agency's yearlong investigation found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

Republicans now are demanding that the Justice Department open a new investigation into whether Clinton lied during testimony last year before the House Benghazi committee. They claim the FBI note may show Clinton provided inconsistent answers to questions about her handling of emails containing classified information.

Green Party presidential candidate won't be on Nev. ballot

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY — A federal judge has denied a request by the Nevada Green Party and its presidential candidate, Jill Stein,

to gain access to the state's Nov. 8 general election ballot.

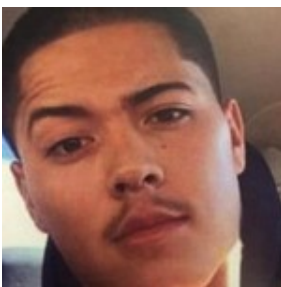
U.S. District Judge Jennifer Dorsey said in a ruling dated Thursday that the Green Party waited until less than two weeks before the deadline to start collecting signatures to qualify to place candidates on Nevada's 2016 ballot.

When the party's June 3 petition came up 647 signatures short after the verification process was completed, the complaint was filed seeking to overturn a decision by Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske rejecting ballot access.

Read the whole story

Police still search for missing teen nearly a year later

By Marcella Corona, Reno Gazette-Journal



Daniel
Gallardo

Police from three jurisdictions are still searching for a 19-year-old Barstow man who disappeared 10 months ago while on his way to start at a new landscaping job in Truckee.

Daniel Gallardo was reported missing on Oct. 28, 2015. He stayed in Reno with his cousin for only two days and was supposed to start at his new job at Rock & Rose, Inc., on 10739 Glenshire Drive.

He was scheduled to start late that morning and was on his way to Truckee, but he never showed up. Gallardo's family hasn't heard from him since. His bank account and Facebook page remained inactive.

Read the whole story

1 hurt in plane crash at Lake Tahoe Airport



A plane rests upside down after arriving at Lake Tahoe Airport on Sept. 5. Photo/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

A pilot of a Cessna 180 was taken to Barton Memorial Hospital this afternoon after the plane flipped while landing at Lake Tahoe Airport.

The woman sustained neck injuries. Her male co-pilot was able to walk away. The names and hometowns of the couple have not been released. Officials said they were in a rental plane.

The incident occurred about 1:30pm Sept. 5. Friends of the couple were having lunch at the airport restaurant, but refused to talk to *Lake Tahoe News*.

Mountain West Aviation officials speculate there was a downdraft that caused the plane to flip. It is resting upside down on the far side of the runway near the Upper Truckee River.

The plane came in from the direction of the lake.

"The wind was behind them. They should have come in from the other way," Kristin Utler told *Lake Tahoe News*.

She and her family were preparing to return home to Concord when the accident occurred.

Their plans, and those of others, were delayed at least two hours. The airport was closed immediately after the accident.

FAA officials are expected to arrive later Monday to take over the investigation.

Number of active Nevada voters drops

By Sandra Chereb, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – The number of active Nevada voters declined in August, with both parties registering losses due mainly to list maintenance, the secretary of state's office said Thursday.

Active voters declined by 11,876 in August compared with July.

"This decrease is primarily due to the routine list maintenance being carried out statewide, including active voters being moved to inactive status," the secretary of state's office said.

[Read the whole story](#)

South Tahoe man accused using stolen checks



John Liska

A South Lake Tahoe man is accused of cashing stolen checks in

Stateline.

John Liska, 37, reportedly tried to cash a \$976.15 check at Lakeside Inn last week and then was detained.

Douglas County sheriff's investigators said Liska's backpack had 0.3 grams of methamphetamine, 0.3 grams of heroin and 8 grams of heroin soaked cotton tips. Liska faces a variety of charges.

The checks were stolen from an undisclosed South Lake Tahoe restaurant. In total, checks worth \$16,600 were cashed between Aug. 19-25 at Stateline casinos, deputies said.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Arsonist being sought in spate of SLT fires



A wildland fire burns Sept. 1 in South Lake Tahoe.
Photo/Provided

By Kathryn Reed

Someone – or multiple people – are lighting wildland fires in South Lake Tahoe, with crews having put out seven in the last week and a half.

The latest occurred Sunday afternoon in Van Sickle Bi-State Park on the California side.

It was called in at 4:02pm Sept. 4. More than an hour later smoke could still be seen from Saddle Road filtering up between the trees. In all, a swath about 25 feet by 40 feet burned.

“I don’t know,” was CalFire Division Chief Chris Anthony’s response to *Lake Tahoe News* when asked if there is an arsonist on the loose.

Lisa Herron with the U.S. Forest Service when asked about an arsonist told *LTN*, “The only thing I can share is the cause of these fires remains under investigation.”

And, yet, the definition of arson is “the criminal act of deliberately setting fire to property.” And no one is saying that is not what is happening.

Lightning has been non-existent and no power lines have fallen; this leaves humans being responsible for starting them. This spate of fires is also not being blamed on homeless camps.

The fires have been on state and federal property. Together the agencies are working to determine if one or more people are responsible.

All of the fires have been in the same general wooded area, but never in the exact same location.

They are about the same size – this has to do with crews getting a jump on the blazes and a cooling trend. The Forest Service's Super Scooper was deployed Sunday to drop water on the fire, and on Thursday, too.

The fires have started at all times of day and night, with one being at 2 in the morning. And it's not like the suspect had the aid of a full moon to assist him or her with a walk in the woods at that hour.

One day there were three fires.

Even if an incendiary device is found, it can be difficult to isolate who may have been lighting the fires. Still, the state and federal investigators have myriad tools to employ to ferret out the culprit.

The Forest Service expects to increase staffing in light of the rash of fires.

South Lake Tahoe firefighters have responded to all of the fires, with pictures often posted to the department's Facebook page. Those are now gone.

"Due to the joint investigation between CalFire and the U.S. Forest Service, South Lake Tahoe Fire and Rescue was asked not to post any of the fire activity that could get in the way of the joint investigation," Fire Chief Jeff Meston told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He would not comment any further about the fires.

Missing woman found dead near Tahoe

The remains of a Gardnerville woman were found today near Old Kingsbury Grade.

Randi Maclean, 51, had been missing since Aug. 26.

According to law enforcement, Maclean's vehicle was found by a bicyclist parked near Daggett Creek with the passenger door open. This person then called authorities.

Search and rescue crews found her body down the canyon.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report