

# Trooper's killing remembered 40 years later



James Gifford holds up newspaper coverage of his father's death. Photo/Provided

The 40th anniversary of the first Nevada Highway Patrol trooper to die in the line of duty was marked Oct. 14 by those who worked along side him.

Gary Gifford was shot and killed at approximately noon on Oct. 14, 1975.

After robbing the Round Hill branch of the First National Bank of Nevada the suspect was pulled over by Gifford just before Cave Rock. An altercation ensued and Gifford was shot. The suspect surrendered to authorities that evening.

Several patrolmen from that time gathered in Zephyr Cove on Wednesday to honor Gifford and tell stories. Also in attendance was Gifford's son, James, who was 5 at the time of his father's death.

The portion of Highway 50 from Spooner Summit to the state line is dedicated to honor Gifford.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **Fatal accident closes westbound I-80 near Truckee**

A fatal accident on Interstate 80 is causing major traffic delays.

The accident occurred about 2pm Thursday, with the road not expected to be completely open until after 10:30 tonight.

Authorities are turning back or holding all traffic at the Gold Ranch exit just east of the Nevada state line. Only local traffic is being allowed through in order to reduce the backlog of motorists in the Truckee area. Those vehicles are being detoured in stages at the Donner Lake interchange to Donner Pass Road.

Eastbound traffic is not affected.

A driver drove into the Caltrans work zone on Oct. 15, crashing into two Caltrans heavy equipment vehicles. One Caltrans worker was taken to a local hospital for evaluation and released. The identity of the driver and hometown have not been released.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# FBI investigating fantasy sports companies

By Joe Drape and Jacqueline Williams, New York Times

The FBI has begun an inquiry into the practices of booming daily fantasy sports websites after players of the games and lawmakers made allegations of predatory tactics and questioned the use of inside information, according to fantasy players who said they had been contacted by investigators.

The FBI began contacting several prominent competitors in the contests, the players said, shortly after an employee of DraftKings, one of the two most prominent daily fantasy companies, admitted to inadvertently releasing data before lineups for the start of the third week of NFL games were locked in. The employee, a midlevel content manager, then won \$350,000 at a rival site, though DraftKings said he did not have an advantage.

The players said that they were interviewed by agents from the bureau's Boston office, who seemed to focus primarily on DraftKings, a Boston-based company. They also said that agents were examining whether the site encouraged and accepted deposits and bets from states where the contests are prohibited. The information under review includes a post by Jon Aguiar, an executive in charge of developing high-volume fantasy players, on a public thread informing players how to deposit funds and play in contests in states and countries where the games are prohibited.

**Read the whole story**

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# Legal brothels in Nevada on the wane



Brothels are less popular  
than they once were.  
Photo/Russell and Sydney  
Poore

**By John M. Glionna and Javier Panzar, Los Angeles Times**

When Lamar Odom was found unconscious Tuesday inside a Nevada brothel, he'd wandered far off the beaten path of adult entertainment culture, back into an analog version of an increasingly high-tech sex-play universe.

Like Wayne Newton and mobsters wielding tommy guns, the antics of the world's oldest profession smack of a bygone era in Nevada. Brothels are under siege, more and more considered outdated and distasteful – even in the only state to sanction prostitution.

Legalized in Nevada in 1971, these so-called pleasure dens, many believe, are on their last legs.

“These brothels are really a relic of the past. Even here in

Nevada, they're relegated to what we call the cow counties," said Nevada state Sen. Richard S. "Tick" Segerblom. "The urban areas have an appetite to abolish them. And given the state's rapid urbanization, there's really little popular support left for these businesses."

**Read the whole story**

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## **Lincoln man ID'd in fatal logging accident**

The logger who died Oct. 14 while working in the Eldorado National Forest has been identified as Jeffrey Jones, 55, of Lincoln.

Jones was working at a logging operation off Wentworth Springs Road on the West Slope.

According to the El Dorado County Sheriff's office, Jones "sustained fatal injuries from a log that fell from his trailer and struck him in the head."

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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**News      photographer      faces**

# assault charges after incident at Tesla plant

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

Tesla says two Reno journalists trespassed at its battery-manufacturing property late last week before striking two security guards with a Jeep belonging to the *Reno Gazette-Journal*.

The sheriff's department arrested *Gazette-Journal* photographer Andy Barron on two counts of felony assault with a deadly weapon. Tesla said Tuesday in a news release that Barron and the other journalist, who hasn't been identified, will be charged with trespassing.

The District Attorney's Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the charges.

**Read the whole story**

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## Bay Area duo ID'd as SLT plane crash victims

The two people who died in Saturday night's plane crash were from the Bay Area.

Conrad Yu, 73, of Oakley was the owner and pilot of the Beech 35 Bonanza. His passenger was Mary Choy, 66, of San Francisco.

The aircraft was taking off from Lake Tahoe Airport just after 5:30pm Oct. 10 when it banked left and landed next to a house

on Tionontati Street in El Dorado County.

Witnesses said the aircraft was making noises as though something was wrong.

The plane pieces, which were initially stuck in a tree behind the house and scattered about the yard, have been removed. The National Transportation Safety Board took them to a secure location to determine if there were mechanical or structural issues with the plane.

NTSB officials often take a year to release a report stating the cause of any plane crash.

The plane erupted into flames and caught part of the house on fire. The two people and a dog who were renting the house escaped without injury.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **South Lake Tahoe man hit in drive-by shooting**

Police are searching for the gunman who shot a 19-year-old South Lake Tahoe man in the leg early this morning.

The victim, whose name has not been released, showed up at Barton Memorial Hospital about midnight Oct. 15. Hospital personnel then called police.

Officers tracked a vehicle in question to the rear of the TJ Maxx center. The suspect fled on foot. K9 units were unable to locate the person.

The shooting occurred near Ski Run Boulevard and Highway 50.

South Lake Tahoe Police Chief Brian Uhler described it as a drive-by shooting. He told *Lake Tahoe News* it was too early to say if it was gang related. The suspect and victim are believed to know each other.

“The victim gave us some information. We do have some significant leads we are working on,” Uhler said.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## Tesla founder energized about firm's future



J.B. Straubel talks about Tesla's plans in Northern Nevada and beyond. Photo/Mike Wolterbeek/UNR

**By Linda Fine Conaboy**

RENO – Although it's nice to be able to drive 250 without an electronic fill-up, all good things come to an end, as do all electric charges. The question of where to get a charge has been nimbly addressed by Tesla with the invention of their supercharger units with a DC connection allowing for a quick charge (30 minutes) at a series of superchargers strategically located coast-to-coast.

There's one in Truckee, and the company is adding charging stations daily to accommodate not only Teslas, but all electric vehicles.

J.B. Straubel, Tesla's co-founder and chief technical officer, gave a talk Oct. 11 at UNR titled Building a Clean Energy Future: Tesla and Nevada.

He spoke about his passion for electric vehicles, an interest he developed when he rebuilt a discarded electric golf cart at age 14. He also spoke about his electric Porsche 944 that had a world electric vehicle racing record. His interest in electronics led him to Stanford University where he earned a bachelor's degree in energy systems engineering and a master's in energy engineering. He teaches an energy storage integration class at his alma mater.

As co-founder of Tesla, Straubel has overseen the technical and engineering design of the company's vehicles, including the Tesla Roadster, the Model S series and just-launched Model X. He said plans are in the works for another car, this one to be more affordable than other Teslas, with a price at about \$35,000.

"We were not founded to build expensive cars," Straubel said. "Our mission is to build affordable cars." The company is

working on what he called a first generation roadster, the Model lll, which will have a 200-mile range.

Still in his 30s, the dapper entrepreneur chronicled Tesla's meteoric rise from 2003 and a mere 15 employees to its current complement of 13,000.

"We had a new idea in 2004—performance electric cars. It took a lot of effort to change people's perceptions," he said. That new idea led to the Tesla Roadster, powered by what was becoming a new era in automobiles—the lithium-ion battery.



Tesla began production of the Model S in 2012.  
Photo/Linda Fine Conaboy

What the company needed next, he said, was a car that could compete with gasoline powered vehicles; thus the Model S series was born in 2012, built around a battery pack that literally rides on the floorboard of the car permitting a huge increase in cargo capacity and offering added safety because there's no motor in the front. In fact, the Model S carries the highest safety rating in the United States, Straubel said, receiving Motor Trend's car of the year award in 2013.

The new Model X rides on the same platform as the Model S, but it is an SUV with a range of 250 miles on a single charge, falcon-wing doors and a 5,000-pound towing capacity. While there was a display of cars in front of UNR's Crowley Student Union building where Straubel spoke, the Model X was

unavailable for viewing.

He explained that in order to fulfill company ambitions and its enormous appetite for batteries –they consume 10 percent of all batteries produced – Tesla needed a more ready source as well as a supply line closer to home. Most batteries now come from Asia. By 2020, that battery appetite is expected to grow as Tesla expects to sell 500,000 cars within the next five-year period as well as battery packs for home and commercial use.

“We thought there must be a better way to build batteries, so the gigafactory came into being,” Straubel said in reference to the huge production facility being constructed in Storey County in the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center east of Reno and Sparks. “We’re making a \$4.5 billion investment and will eventually employ 6,500 people full time, building batteries that are self-contained from an emissions point of view.”

Straubel said the plant would be powered by renewable energy sources. “It’s a net-zero energy factory.”

The main mission of the factory is to drive down costs of storage, Straubel said.

“The energy source must be sustainable to power an energy-sustainable car. The missing links are renewable and sustainable [energy]. The goal is to eliminate 100 percent of fossil fuel energy usage. Many say eliminating fossil fuels is an impossible goal. They said that about the Model S too,” Straubel said.

“Sustainable energy is this generation’s moon shot challenge,” he said, referencing the moon landing in 1969. “The sustainable energy race is a race against ourselves. We see the movement to sustainable energy as our biggest goal.”

The Northern Nevada facility is being built in phases as needed. He expects to see the first wave of employees move in

in a few weeks.

In 2015, there were more than 600 internships at Tesla and about one-third of them were converted to full-time employees. They're launching a new internship especially for the gigafactory.

"We're here to stay, we don't want a workforce that's imported from somewhere else," he said. "And as many people as we can bring on board and recruit from the local community, it makes that tie even stronger."

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## **Logger dies in accident on West Slope**

A man was crushed by a log Wednesday while working in the Eldorado National Forest.

El Dorado County Sheriff's Office received the call about 10am Oct. 14 regarding the accident off Wentworth Springs Road on the West Slope.

The name of the man and logging company he was working for have not been released.

Deputies said he sustained fatal head injuries from the accident.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*