

Recycled water may ease Calif. drought worries

By Hudson Sangree, Sacramento Bee

At two treatment plants in El Dorado Hills, millions of gallons of brown wastewater pour in every week, and millions of gallons of clean water pour out through purple pipes that irrigate the lawns of 4,000 homes.

Proponents call it water recycling. Critics call it “toilet-to-tap.” But as the drought has taken hold in California, opposition to the idea has been drying up, and recycled water is winning acceptance. It’s expected to be a significant source of landscaping and drinking water for many Californians in years to come.

Today, taxpayer money is flowing toward recycled water programs. As part of recent drought relief measures, the state allocated \$200 million in grants to jump-start those efforts and slashed interest rates on \$800 million more in loans.

In October, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill that requires state health and water officials to report by September 2016 on the feasibility of developing uniform standards for recycling wastewater for “direct potable reuse.” That means purified wastewater would flow straight to household faucets.

Read the whole story

U.N. panel: Climate change adjustments must be fast

By Nell Greenfieldboyce, NPR

A new report from the United Nations' panel on climate change says major action is needed, and fast, if policymakers want to limit global warming to acceptable levels.

There's an international target to control climate change: keeping the global temperature rise to just 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels – that's 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change now says it's technically possible to meet that goal. But doing so will require rapid, large-scale shifts in energy production and use.

Greenhouse gas emissions will have to drop 40 to 70 percent by 2050 – and then drop even more, to nearly zero by the end of this century – the report says.

The trouble is, emissions have actually been increasing. The panel notes that emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the previous three decades.

[Read the whole story](#)

Veil removed from human trafficking issue in Tahoe

By Lesia Witkowsky

Human trafficking isn't something that just happens in other places. It's an issue in Lake Tahoe.

Dylan Sullivan spoke about human trafficking as it relates to South Lake Tahoe at the Soroptimist International Tahoe Sierra meeting April 10. She dispelled many misconceptions of human trafficking and stressed the importance of addressing the issue in El Dorado County.

"Because it's a painful thing to talk about we want to put our heads in the sand and pretend it's not happening," Sullivan said. "But it's happening in this town. We as a group need to say out loud, 'We know this is happening and it's unacceptable.'"



Dylan Sullivan talks about human trafficking on April 10. Photo/Lesia Witkowsky

Sullivan is a commissioner for El Dorado County Superior Court, where she hears family law, Child Protective Services, unlawful detainers, traffic, and restraining order cases.

She explained that runaway children are often the biggest victims of human trafficking in El Dorado County because of their vulnerability. They come from homes where they have either been sexually or physically assaulted, or both. Those children have a need for someone to care about them, and human traffickers try to fill that void similar to the way gangs recruit new members. According to Sullivan, the average age

for runways involved in human trafficking is 12 to 14.

"We remember being 12, 13 and 14 and thinking that we understood everything in life. And we know 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds, and we look at them and see how innocent they are... It is not acceptable for us to not get up and do something about a 12-year-old being prostituted," Sullivan said.

She offered advice on how to improve the situation locally by explaining that when a community gets behind a child, that child has the means to become successful. Instead of treating victims of human trafficking as criminals, they should be looked at as people who need the services of a dependency court and not the punishment of a delinquency court.

"I was an at-risk youth," Sullivan said. "I was a child that had serious issues in my household and I knew at a very young age that I had to take personal responsibility to change my situation. I thought long and hard about how I knew that because I want to be able to follow it up and give it to kids that I see are in crisis."

A missing person's report along with a warrant should be filed when a runaway goes missing so when police pick him up, he will be treated like a dependent and not a delinquent. Sullivan said El Dorado County is leading the state in this issue.

Sullivan also listed a number of actions that individuals can take to help victims of human trafficking. These include being informed, being prepared to help and reporting any suspicious activity to legal authorities.

"It's something that we all need to hear," Susan Baker, a Soroptimist member and former head of Mt. Tallac High School said about Sullivan's presentation. "This issue is alive and well in our community and it's going to take our community to address this. It can't be just law enforcement, or just CPS, or just the courts. As a community we have to really be

aware.”

Nevadans least likely in U.S. to say teachers are well-respected

By Paul Takahashi, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada has a relatively low percentage of residents who say their teachers are well-respected, according to a Gallup poll released last week.

The public opinion company conducted telephone surveys with at least 600 adults in every state between June and December 2013, asking them whether they believed teachers in their city are well-respected.

The majority of Nevadans – 62 percent – said they believe their teachers are well-respected. However, that percentage was the lowest in the nation.

[Read the whole story](#)

Study: Women not interested

in investing

By Debbie Carlson, Chicago Tribune

Whether it's relying on a spouse to handle household finances, being afraid of doing something risky with their money or just not feeling confident, women are less likely to take an active role in investing their savings.

It's not just older women who have taken a hands-off approach; studies by investment firms and anecdotal evidence from financial advisers said women of all ages are less likely to invest.

A study last fall from Fidelity Investments showed that only 19 percent of women said they hold primary responsibility for long-term retirement decisions, but this is up from 9 percent in 2011. Twenty-four percent of boomer women said they make primary decisions on day-to-day finance, but only 12 percent of Generation Y women said they are in charge.

This is despite another study last year from insurance firm Allianz Life, saying that "bag lady" fears – that is, ending up broke and homeless – persist whether the woman is single, married or divorced, or whether she is low-income or wealthy. According to the survey, 57 percent of women said the thought of running out of money in retirement keeps them up at night.

Read the whole story

Mixed outlook on jobs if Nev.

margin tax passes

By Ryan Frank, Las Vegas Sun

If Nevada voters approve a new business tax in November, the state would lose nearly 9,000 private sector jobs and \$413 million in employee wages, according to new research funded by the Coalition to Defeat the Margin Tax Initiative.

But those losses of jobs and wages could be offset, partially or entirely, by growth in public sector employment paid for by the tax measure. The growth in public sector jobs depends on how the Legislature decides to spend the money, said Jeremy Aguero, principal analyst at Applied Analysis who conducted the research.

Read the whole story

Judge: Treatment of Calif. mentally ill inmates 'horrific'

By Sam Stanton and Denny Walsh, Sacramento Bee

Following weeks of graphic court testimony and chilling videos of inmates writhing in pain as they were blasted with pepper spray, a federal judge has found that the use of force against mentally ill inmates in California prisons is unconstitutionally harsh.

Citing the "horrific" videos he viewed during hearings last fall and a wealth of other evidence, U.S. District Judge

Lawrence K. Karlton on Thursday ordered state officials to continue revising the use-of-force procedures deployed against the state's 33,000 mentally ill prisoners and to limit the use of solitary confinement as a means of disciplining such inmates.

The 74-page order cites the "overall significant progress" that the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has made in modifying its use-of-force policies, especially new limits on how and when pepper spray can be used against mentally ill inmates.

Read the whole story

Climber rescued from Lover's Leap

By Cathy Locke, Sacramento Bee

Helicopter crews with the California Highway Patrol's Valley Division were kept busy Friday, rescuing a man who had fallen from a cliff in El Dorado County in the morning and helping recover the body of a drowning victim in Nevada County in the afternoon.

About 10am, a helicopter crew responded to a request by the El Dorado County search and rescue team to assist a 20-year-old man who had fallen from a cliff at Lover's Leap, near Strawberry. The area is popular with rock climbers.

The man was climbing when he slipped and fell approximately 50 feet, striking a ledge. He then fell an additional 50 feet until his climbing rope broke his fall, CHP officials said.

Because of the severity of his injuries, the man was flown to Renown Medical Center in Reno, where he was admitted, the CHP reported.

Read the whole story

Gyll: 'The department is in a tailspin'



Michael T. Gyll

Publisher's note: *Lake Tahoe News asked the three Douglas County sheriff's candidates a series of questions. The responses are running in the order they were received. All but one question is the same.*

Name: Michael T. Gyll

Age: 44

Occupation: Retired Nevada state police officer, Nevada Department of Public Safety, investigation division, headquarters commander.

What groups, nonprofits, other civic involvement are you part of outside of work?: Douglas County Parks and Recreation

coach, Carson Valley Little League, National Rifle Association, Veterans Administration.

In Tahoe during the morning commute there are often multiple deputies out on Highway 50. How is enforcing speed the best use of limited resources?: Having patrols on the streets during commute hours is not just about enforcing speed limits. Officer presence is a deterrent. Those citizens who would not normally drive erratically, or push their driving abilities and their vehicle's abilities are much more likely to do so during commute hours due to being late for work or that always important meeting. When citizens drive beyond their ability they become a serious hazard to those who have planned their day accordingly. During commute hours vehicle crimes are not the only crimes that occur. Having deputies patrolling the highways also puts them in areas which would reduce response time to calls for service because they are already mobile and in the area.

When the South Shore is busy rental units often have so many vehicles they spillover onto the streets to create a problem for locals and pose a safety issue. Currently, nothing is being done about this issue. What do you think should be done to address this ongoing issue?: Discussion/awareness town hall meeting with property managers and/or owners about the issue. Having grown up in South Lake Tahoe I understand the need for tourism and the effects it has on "locals" daily routines and lifestyles. The challenge is this; how do we create an environment that is safe and effective for visitors and locals while continuing to thrive as a tourist destination. When emergency response is hampered because of this issue, immediate and swift response should occur. If it is a nuisance issue, then discussion, time and understanding will have to be sought by all parties involved. If a solution or compromise is not realized then enforcement should take place. But all attempts to remedy the situation should be attempted prior to contacting law enforcement. To have law enforcement respond to

non-emergency issues pertaining to parking would not be the "best use of limited resources."

Do you believe it's better for the head of a law enforcement agency to come from inside or outside the department? Why?:

There are pros and cons to both. Pros could be the fact that the person has intimate knowledge of the department's capabilities, personnel issues, department resources, etc. The cons are a high potential for "good ol boy" or nepotism scenarios. This is always an issue with smaller departments. There is also the issue of "If it's not broke, don't fix it" attitude. This attitude comes from individuals who have no vision for the department or community. Just because something works, does that mean it's the right or only way of conducting business? No. Just because it has been working for the last 16 years does that mean it works for law enforcement in the 21st century? No. Lack of vision and a status quo attitude will not survive in the arena that current issues have with law enforcement. An insider that lacks vision will cause a department to fall further and further behind. An outsider will bring new perspective, a fresh set of eyes and enhance the department's capabilities. You have a lot of qualified personnel within these types of departments that find it hard to advance because of the negative issues described. An outsider will eliminate roadblocks to a qualified person's advancement by having that fresh perspective.

Why do you want to be sheriff?: I believe in this community and love the county I reside in. I have a lot of friends and acquaintances that call Douglas County home and have their business here as well. So when I retired from the state of Nevada, I became more active with those acquaintances and was overwhelmed with the lack of trust they had in their sheriff's department. Most sited bad experiences with the administration. As time went on, discussions were had about what can be done, then it happened, they started asking me about the possibility of running for sheriff. I continually

dismissed their advances until one night at the father-daughter dance I found myself surrounded. I wasn't able to dance a single dance with my daughter. That night I thought about what had happened and wondered if there was any thing I could really do. I discussed it with my family, weighing the pros and cons and we decided that since we had so many friends at the sheriff's department and in the communities that my running for sheriff might be the right thing to. It's our community, our friends, our children's future, why not be the loyal resident and invest in our community? That's when I knew it was right and just and that this is what is needed for all.

Why should someone vote for you over someone else?: I have the training, experience and knowledge to move the Douglas County Sheriff's Department forward in a new direction. With a fresh set of eyes and a new perspective, the sheriff's department will find harmony with the changing demographics Douglas County is experiencing. For far too long the sheriff's department has been steered into the 21st century with 20th century administrative views. With my experience, I can offer the deputies an opportunity to enhance their skills and abilities far beyond their current allowable limits. As for the citizens and communities that make up Douglas County and are served by the sheriff's department, I offer strength and vision as an administrator that has not been realized by an administrator for the sheriff's department in at least 16 years. I started my career as a state trooper, through training, hard work and determination, I was promoted and transferred to the investigation division. I have conducted and/ or supervised many investigations which involve, but are not limited to: illegal/ illicit dangerous drug crimes, officer involved shootings, murder/ homicide, suicide, crimes against children and the elderly, and crimes against public trust. I have supervised sworn police officers and civilian employees, I have had the privilege of hiring well-qualified personnel, and relieving personnel of their duties using progressive steps in discipline which had included

termination of service. I have the experience, knowledge and loyalty that the citizens of Douglas County deserve.

What is your stand on medical marijuana?: I believe that the path has been paved for the formal acknowledgment that medical/medicinal marijuana is here to stay. I believe the actual use of marijuana for the treatment of aches and pains is not justified. But I do believe the use of marijuana to enhance appetite and healing for cancer patients is warranted. If it is proven to help with treatment and it was my loved one, I would condone its use.

What kind of enforcement issue would that present for the department?: Medical marijuana is currently lawful in the state of Nevada. Enforcement is already being addressed and implemented for some time.

What do you believe is needed for a good relationship between the sheriff's department and county commissioners?: Open door access and complete transparency. There should not be administrative secrets between the sheriff and county commissioners. We should all be working to the same common goal, safety for our citizens and visitors to Douglas County. This can be achieved by open and frank communication. Barriers such as egos and personal agendas have no place in the Sheriffs administration.

If the commissioners cut your budget by 10 percent, what program or people would you cut? Please be specific.: None. First of all a 10 percent budget cut is unrealistic. If any cuts to the budget are made, I would reallocate resources, seek additional funding through OCJA and ensure that prevention, enforcement and presence in not diminished.

What is your relationship with businesses at Lake Tahoe that work with the sheriff's department on various events? If anything, what would you consider changing?: I would have to decline this answer due to the fact venues are always changing

and effecting Lake Tahoe differently each and every time. I must take a fluid stance and let it be known that every venue in Douglas County will be carefully scrutinized to ensure the safety of all who attend and/ or participate.

The sheriff's department has always refused to make the New Year's Eve celebration at Stateline a sanctioned or permitted event. The casinos have asked for this and have wanted to expand the festivities, but DCSO says no. Do you believe this is a good policy? Why or why not? And how would you address it?: For those of us who remember the '80s and '90s celebrations, I believe New Year's should have been a sanctioned or permitted event. But today's attendance numbers and the economy the way it is, it would be difficult to justify the additional expenses and personnel costs. If the casinos wanted to expand, where would they expand to? I think the enhanced outdoor venues during spring, summer and fall should give county commissioners an excellent perspective as to what would one additional venue really matter. If the county commissioners and the residents want to move forward and look at sanctioning or permitting the event, then I would be willing to readdress the issue. If you stand back and watch, a lot of what happens at Lake Tahoe should be addressed during the 4th of July arguments that are up coming.

The sheriff is a political position, something you don't have experience with as a trooper with the NHP. What do you see as your biggest challenge and how will you overcome it?: First of all, I started my law enforcement career as a state trooper employed by the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol Division. After working hard to attain all that I could as a state trooper, I promoted to the rank of detective and was transferred to the investigation division which is still under the Nevada Department of Public Safety. After a time of working undercover as a narcotics detective, I was promoted to sergeant and was the administrative and operational supervisor. I was charged with the coordination of a local

task force which consisted of state detectives, detectives from three counties, agents from DEA, and agents from the Office of the Military and a traveling narcotic task force which was staffed with state detectives and assisted any of the 17 counties in the state of Nevada with trouble areas that a local detective or team would be unable to accomplish enforcement activities. I was responsible for the budgets, grants, training, equipping and evaluation of all personnel and responsible for all operational issues. I was then promoted to lieutenant and headquarters commander for the investigation division. I directly supervised two multi-agency task forces, the major crimes unit, the polygraph examiners unit, the Nevada Threat Analysis Center, administrative personnel assigned to headquarters, NTAC and Fallon. I was responsible for statewide budget as it pertained to training, travel, vehicle procurement, supply procurement, uniforms, salaries, fringe benefits and emergency deployments and/ or events such as air race crashes, floods, fires, active shooter incidents or any requests from other federal, state, local or municipal law enforcement agencies. So I know I have the experience, training, knowledge, demeanor and loyalty it takes to be the sheriff of Douglas County. I know I have the skills and abilities to perform those duties of the Douglas County sheriff. I have the political experience and more to be a very effective Douglas County sheriff. Task forces and threat analysis centers are very political and are watched closely from the executive branch of Nevada government.

Douglas County sheriff's deputies make less than South Lake Tahoe police officers and El Dorado County sheriff's deputies. Does this hamper efforts to recruit employees? Do you believe deputies should be paid more? Why or why not? If yes, how would you go about getting them more money?: Of course I believe deputies should be paid more. When you are looking for a professional position as a deputy pay is only one part of the deciding factor to work or don't work for a specific agency. If all you wanted was higher wages, you would move to

Las Vegas and work for Metro or Henderson. But if you want quality of life for you and your family and know that you are being paid well for the work you are doing and can wake every morning, look out your windows and see the majesty in front you being the Sierra Nevada, Carson Valley and Lake Tahoe, then the reduced pay is worth it. When elected sheriff I will of course lobby the county commissioners for better pay and work with the association to ensure my employees don't fall further behind in regards to pay and benefits. As for your comparisons, SLTPD and EDSO, it's apples and oranges, California and Nevada, but when you compare salaries to other Northern Nevada counties, Douglas County deputy wages are comparable.

What is lacking in the department right now in terms of personnel or equipment or other resources? How would you address those needs?: Douglas County Sheriff's Department with regards to personnel and equipment is as always lacking personnel. Equipment is always attainable, but qualified applicants are not. The department could stand to increase its number of sworn personnel, but that all hinges on the economy and county commissioners. As for other resources, well, we are professional law enforcement officers, we always want the newest and greatest tools to perform our duties, and wish we had resources available to us like major metropolitan police departments.

What do you think is the biggest issue facing Douglas County Sheriff's Office and how do you plan to resolve it?: Morale. The department is in a tailspin and the administration thinks it is fine so long as the administration can keep quiet the masses. The first issue I will broach is the morale issue and I will do this using peer and supervisor evaluation and review methods. If I was to start at the top, all I might get is smoke and mirrors and never get the core of the problem. I have found through my years of supervisory experience that most often the view of a suspected problem is less hazy and

very real if you look at it from the line level personnel perspective. This goes along with my “new perspective, fresh set of eyes” platform. It’s time that deputies are again proud of not only the profession they have chosen, but the department they have chosen to work for.

What is one do-over you would like to have in terms of a professional decision you have made?: I would have become a fireman.

Tell us something about yourself that people might not already know?: I was raised between Lake Tahoe and Placerville. My father was an El Dorado County deputy sheriff and my mother worked for the casinos. I went to Meyers Elementary, Sierra House Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, and graduated from South Tahoe High School.

Search does not turn up body at Cascade Lake

After hours of searching, the El Dorado County search and rescue team did not find a body at Cascade Lake.

A hiker on April 9 had told deputies she had seen a body floating in Cascade Lake. She had been hiking near the shoreline on the north east portion of Cascade Lake. She said that the body floated up toward the surface of the water and then sank back down and went out of view. The hiker returned to the lake and directed a deputy to the exact location of the sighting.

The department does not have any reports of missing or lost persons in the vicinity of Cascade Lake.

The dive team and CalStar could not locate a body.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*