



3 bodies found over 2 days go unidentified

By Anjeanette Damon
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Law-enforcement officials found two people dead Wednesday—one in Pyramid Lake and one next to a Dumpster in Reno — bringing to three the total of unidentified bodies found in the past two days.

Washoe County sheriff's detectives are trying to identify a naked woman found floating in Pyramid Lake. Identities also are being sought for a man found behind a Kallston Street office building in Reno

and one found Tuesday evening snagged on a tree branch in the Truckee River in Sparks.

Sheriff's officials called the Pyramid Lake death suspicious, but the other deaths aren't.

"The only leads we can follow will be after we can positively identify this lady," Deputy Scott Shields said. "Yes, it's very suspicious."

A family recreating at the lake found the woman near Indian Head at the east end of the lake. She was described as white, in her 50s, 5-foot-6, 160

"We are doing everything we possibly can to get an identification."

Bob Schmidt
Sparks police sergeant

points with gray hair.

No obvious signs of trauma were evident, and an autopsy is scheduled for today, Shields said. Detectives suspect she had been in the lake 12 to 24 hours before she was found.

The coroner also will autopsy the man found near a

Dumpster by a woman working in one of the offices. Police said she noticed a foul smell and quickly left after seeing the body.

He was sitting on a piece of cardboard with his shoes beside him. He was partially hidden and may have died a few

days ago, police said. Detectives said he may be a transient.

An autopsy performed Wednesday on a man found in the Truckee River was unable to pinpoint a cause of death, Sparks police Sgt. Bob Schmidt said. Detectives are awaiting toxicology reports.

Schmidt said it was hard to say how long he had been in the water.

"I would say longer than 48 hours," he said. "But it could be up to two weeks."

Schmidt said it appeared the body rested in a different

location before floating farther downstream and becoming snagged on a branch.

"It looks like his foot caught," Schmidt said. "He was found in an almost vertical position."

The man is white, in his 30s, with brown hair, 6-foot-1 and 215 pounds. He was wearing a pair of shorts and black leather boots and had no jewelry.

Police have checked missing-persons lists and have checked out numerous phone calls from people whose family members have not come home in several days. They are

awaiting results of a fingerprint search.

"We are doing everything we possibly can to get an identification," Schmidt said.

When identifying a body, detectives release descriptions of the person through the media, check local missing-persons lists as well as lists in surrounding states and run a fingerprint check through a federal database, Shields said. "If all of that comes up negative, the case goes inactive, but we follow up on any additional leads," he said. "We never just give up."

IN AND AROUND OUR TOWN

We invite readers to submit items by calling the number listed below. Watch for "Our Town" Tuesday through Saturday.

Julia Weinberg, reading recovery teacher at the Glenn Duncan Center, receives the 1999 Fulbright Memorial Award and will travel to Japan to study the Japanese Educational System. ■ ■ ■

Sparks Firefighters Local 1265 donated \$3,000 to Sparks and Reed High schools for scholarships. Last August the firefighters held a softball game charity fundraiser featuring the fire-fighters versus the Oakland Raiders' old timer football players. Three \$300 scholarships were presented to each school. The recipients from Sparks High are **Haley Peters, Melissa Lewis, and Wes Hanson**. The Reed High school recipients are **Laura Edmonds, Suzanne Kitchen and Alanna Peterson**. For more information contact **Gene Ryback** at 353-2259. ■ ■ ■

Six local high school students will attend the Interlochen Center for the Arts this summer: **Reed High sophomore Megan Argall** plays the flute; **Sparks High student Ty McDonald** is a violinist; **Churchill High junior Rubin Risi** plays trumpet; **obit: Robin Jenny** English play for the Carson City Symphony; **Patrick Woodard and Rose Sciarolo** play violin for the Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. ■ ■ ■

Sandy Pearce Raffaeli presented a check to the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee amounting for \$7,000 to be used for the Doris Pearce Scholarship Fund, set up in memory of her mother for club members who need help in pursuing education. The check was in memory of her father, **Bill Pearce**, former owner of Bill Pearce County Honda. She also asked that donations to scholarship fund be made in lieu of flowers. ■ ■ ■

Desert Research Institute has received \$60,000 from the Toyota USA Foundation to expand its Science Box Traveling Kits program to include more science teachers and classrooms in Nevada and to expand to other states. ■ ■ ■

To submit items: Call 775-324-0225; fax 775-788-6458.

Man involved in scores of Reno burglaries could spend 11 years in jail

By Anjeanette Damon
and Mike Henderson
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

A Washoe District Court judge ended a 26-year-old Reno man's involvement in a burglary spree Wednesday when he sentenced him to up to 11 years in prison.

Judge James Hardesty imposed a prison term of from

Galena Creek will return to original bed

By Faith Bremner
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

A 2 1/2-year tug-of-war over Galena Creek is nearly over, and it looks like both sides will come out winners.

During the January 1997 flood, a small section of the creek jumped its banks and, with a little help from golf course employees, formed a new channel through the 17th fairway of Montreux Golf and Country Club.

Five creek-side property owners and Montreux tentatively have agreed to have the Natural Resources Conservation Service put the creek back to where it was before the flood. Work will begin after Montreux plays host to the Reno Tahoe Open, a PGA Tour event, Aug. 23 to 29.

Galena Creek property owners

Montreux not cut off: 20 percent of flow will still go through golf course.

By Faith Bremner
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

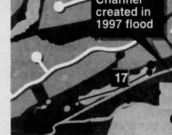
ers and Montreux had been arguing for months about whether the creek should be restored and, if so, how much of the water should go back. The federal agency offered to pick up 75 percent of the \$40,000 tab to restore the creek and Washoe County offered to be the local government sponsor.

The two sides finally began to negotiate seriously when county hydrologist Paul Urban sent a letter warning them they had to reach an agreement by June 15 or lose conservation service money.

"That caused them to really work on it," Urban said. The controversy was caused because Montreux wanted to keep at least some, but not all, of the flow. The new channel is very unstable and could give way during a flood. Property owners in Galena Forest Es-

Montreux Golf Course

The 1997 flood created a new northern channel of Galena Creek through fairway 17.



Channel created in 1997 flood

tates and along Philoree Lane wanted the water back. In the end, they agreed to put most of the water back into the old creek bed and let Montreux keep 20 percent of the flow, or 2.6 cubic feet per second, whichever is less. The Nevada state engineer will determine how much water will stay with Montreux.

See CREEK on 4E

New lawsuits name airport authority

By Faith Bremner
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The Washoe County Airport Authority in the past week has been hit with two more personnel-related lawsuits.

In one suit, filed Wednesday in Washoe District Court, former janitor Heather Bailey alleges male supervisors forced her to have sex and asked her to join a prostitution and drug ring.

In the other lawsuit, Barry Roseman and Frank Fowler, sergeants in Reno/Tahoe International Airport's police department, allege the airport authority created a hostile and abusive working environment in retaliation for the men forming an employ-

Neighbors to appeal follow-through on Golden Valley school

By Jennifer Crowe
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Complaints from some Golden Valley residents could delay construction of a high school there, despite the Washoe County planning commission's decision to grant the school district a special-use permit.

Several Golden Valley homeowners say they plan to appeal, which could mean the school doesn't open by September 2001 as school officials have promised. Anyone who pays a \$161 fee can file an appeal within 10 days from the decision.

The Washoe County Commission has to hear the appeal within 30 days, but school Superintendent Jim Hager said he would ask the commission to act quickly.

Dale Sanderson, plant facilities administrator, said the county would need to hear the appeal by mid-July to keep with the school-construction timeline.

"We'll have to go through the process, but I want to ask the county to expedite to the process," Hager said.

Commissioners added a handful of restrictions on the school's construction and operation to the list of 68 that county planners recommended. Sanderson said

Those changes can be made to the design plans and the district still would be ready for grading bids by July 29.

But an appeal could mean delays.

Building the high school on time could be key to the school district's efforts to rebuild its credibility after failure of the 1996 school bond.

Voters sent a clear message they wanted better planning and more fiscal accountability from schools.

During the 1998 bond campaign, school officials promised not to spend a bond money to buy land for the north valleys high school.

"If the school board starts

See APPEAL on 3E

i-80 interchange at Pyramid set for June 25 opening

Two years and a month after construction started, the \$18.8 million Pyramid Way interchange with Interstate 80 is scheduled to open June 25.

"We probably open it about 98 percent complete," said Nevada Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Magruder. "We wanted to get it open before the Fourth of July weekend."

Granite Construction originally was not scheduled to finish it until Sept. 30. NDOT and Granite negotiated a deal to move up the completion to June 30 if the state paid an extra \$183,650.

The state is planning a ceremony with local, state and possibly federal officials.

Under expected work on the interchange that adds a westbound exit from the freeway to Pyramid Way and an eastbound entrance to the freeway from Pyramid Way will be done June 30.

Whistle-blowers Hot line

Do you have a tip on government waste, abuse of power, bureaucratic snafus, official coverups or outright corruption? Give a brief description of the situation and the name of the agency involved. Be as specific as you can. Call 324-0225, then press 1490 when asked for the four-digit code.

Please leave your address, name and phone number. Or fax at 788-6458.

Or write to: Whistle-blowers Hot Line, Gazette-Journal City Desk, P.O. Box 22000, Reno, NV 89520

The Gazette-Journal will publish a selection of reports from the hotline and the responses from appropriate government officials.

Tank vandalism prompts boil water order for Sun Valley

All residents of northern Sun Valley should boil their water for 10 minutes before consumption after vandals did \$2,000 in damage and cut three locks to reach a tank, officials said Wednesday.

The Chimney tank site of the Sun Valley General Improvement District was broken into between 5 p.m. Tuesday and 11 a.m. Wednesday. Water will be tested for poisons, said Darrin Price, field supervisor for the district.

He said the boil order is a precautionary measure for 539 homes. Nothing was found floating in the water and the tank valve has been shut off.

A \$1,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons involved. Bottled water is available at the GID office, 5000 Sun Valley Boulevard. Please call 673-2220 in advance.

TODAY'S OBITUARIES

■ Please turn to page 5E for a complete obituary listing and other news of record. Obituaries marked with an asterisk (*) contain updated information.

- *Alice Evalina Huff Amick, 91, Reno
- Marita F. Weimer Bodenhofer, 84, Virginia City
- George F. Denny, 64, Reno
- Frances Clara Dietrich, 96, Escondido, Calif.
- Katharine Carol Krecacic Garzanelli, 53, Carson City
- Robert E. Gratton, 47, Reno
- Harriet C. Davis Parker, 87, Gardnerville
- Earl Edward Ripley, 82, Winnemucca
- Joseph Raymond Witek, 77, Reno

Appeal

From page 1E

spending money to change their minds, then their credibility, which has been an issue all along, is compromised," said Charlene Bybee, a Sparks mother of two who campaigned for the bond sale. "Credibility and the district showing they're being fiscally responsible are critical."

Bybee added that many parents want to see the new high schools

open as soon as possible to relieve overcrowding.

"Overcrowding affects the quality of education when it comes to the school's ability to provide all of the things we should be offering students," she said. "That's what we heard from parents."

Even the project's opponents don't argue a need for more high schools. They just don't want one in Golden Valley.

"It's unfortunate we didn't start this communication earlier, but if something is done, we can still get a school open on time," said Neal

Cobb, vice chairman of the Golden Valley Homeowners Association, which opposes a high school in the community.

About 525 homes are in Golden Valley, and about 130 belong to the association. Residents to testify at the planning commission hearing were split evenly in support and opposition to the school.

Anticipating some resident opposition, school officials have been meeting with opponents of a Golden Valley high school since late January. Several sites were reviewed and both citizens and elected officials

in Reno and Washoe County have commended the district's willingness to look at options.

The concern about adequate water for a Stead school has been laid to rest.

However, finding a big enough piece of land at no cost to the district has been a tougher problem.

The group considered land in Stead that the University of Nevada, Reno, Washoe County, City of Reno and Washoe County Airport Authority own, but none of the sites was found suitable for a high school. Hager has said he would consider

an even swap — Stead land for Golden Valley land — but school officials don't want to give away school property.

A local developer is offering to buy a 55-acre parcel in Stead for a high school in exchange for the district's 80-acre Golden Valley land and 30 acres on Vista Boulevard near Los Altos. A 2-year-old appraisal values the Vista Boulevard parcel at \$750,000. But in fast-growing Spanish Springs, it seems likely the value has grown.

"We're not going to pursue it," real-estate agent Jerry Cent said of

the land swap. "If the school district changes its mind, then we're willing to entertain that."

WHAT'S NEXT

Appeal: Opponents of the Golden Valley high school have 10 days from June 15 to appeal the planning commission decision. The appeal would be heard within 30 days.

Construction: Washoe County school officials say they need permits and plans ready by July 29 to start taking bids. Construction would begin in mid-September and the school is scheduled to open in September 2001.

Residents say street can't handle traffic generated by future school

By Jennifer Crowe
RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Some Golden Valley residents are worried a two-lane road leading to a proposed high school is one big accident waiting to happen.

Golden Valley resident Steve Rogers said he supported the \$176 million bond sale for new schools but doesn't think Golden Valley is the place for an 1,800-student school.

A building to accommodate growth in the north valleys for the next 50 years needs to be where the students are, he said.

"Moving this thing to a more central location will save a lot of money and a lot of headaches," he said. "Golden Valley Road can't handle high school traffic. I am for a school but not there."

Increased bus traffic and a flood of teen-age drivers were just a couple of concerns on the minds of many area residents speaking Tuesday at the Washoe County planning commission meeting.

The panel added several conditions to the special-use permit to provide space for pedestrian and bike traffic, but some residents say that's not enough.

"This is only a two-lane road," Golden Valley resident Gene Hilligus said. "It would be better to build the school in the right place and wait another year."

School officials agreed to build bike paths adjacent to the road in front of the school and a pedestrian path on the other side of the steep ditch separating the road from the school.

Commissioners Sonja Dresbach and Lynette Preku tried but failed to force the district to move one of the three entrances to the school from Golden Valley Road to Spearhead Drive.

Some also had concern on how the increased traffic would affect the other men took advantage of his client's economic plight, he said.

Airport

From page 1E

employees who sued the agency for wrongful termination and to 10 other former employees to keep them from suing.

Bailey, 23, a divorced mother of two small children, said she gave into Estrada's demands for sex because she needed the job. Bailey worked at the airport authority only seven months, from September 1997 to April 1998.

She also claims that another shift leader, Darryl Schell, asked her to prostitute herself at his parties and join his prostitution and drug ring. When she complained to the men's boss, Rob Kraus, Kraus asked her to go out on a date, the lawsuit says. Bailey subsequently suffered from depression and low self-esteem and was admitted to a mental-health facility.

Bailey's lawyer denied his client's relationship with Estrada was consensual.

But even if it was, it was still sexual harassment because Estrada and the other men took advantage of his client's economic plight, he said.

"A woman shouldn't be asked to dance at a Super Bowl party, a woman shouldn't be asked by a married supervisor to go out on a date," Ron Hofstad said.

Bailey's claims stem from events that allegedly took place before the airport authority's new executive director, Krys Bart, took over.

But the police sergeant's lawsuit alleges misconduct that took place after she started work in December.

Shortly before Bart arrived, Roseman, Fowler and the police department's third sergeant, Gary Nottingham, formed the Reno/Airport Police Supervisors' Association. They said it would give them more clout to negotiate contracts and allow them to join the Police Offi-

"They're going to get there," Dresbach said.

"The question is: Where does everyone else on the road go?"

Regional Transportation Commission officials said no plans exist to widen the road for at least a decade and probably not until 2020.

"As development occurs, those roads will get on the priority list," said Chris Louis of the RTC.

Commissioner Buck Metcalf said when Galena High School was first built, Mount Rose Highway did not have a major effect on traffic.

Now traffic lights are in place, and with the exception of 15 minutes before and after school and the lunch hour, Metcalf said the school has not had a major effect on traffic.

"Whatever the traffic problems are, they'll be worked out," he said.

School officials said busing costs for the district are the same no matter where a school goes.

Schools are required to bus students depending on where they live and what streets they must cross to get to school.

ers Research Association of California and Nevada, which has large legal-defense fund that will protect them if they ever get in trouble for civil, administrative or criminal actions.

Nottingham is not a part of the lawsuit.

Roseman and Fowler's lawyer, Jeff Dickerson, would not comment on specific actions the airport authority allegedly took against his clients.

However, he confirmed the airport authority recently brought in the Nevada Division of Investigation to look into allegations that his clients falsified their time cards.

Last week, the airport authority placed the men on paid administrative leave.

"The NDI investigator found (the allegations) were not sustained," Dickerson said. "He cleared them."

Maybe they said the NDI investigation is complete but it's premature to characterize the result.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY

History of the north valleys high school:

1994: Washoe County school district pays \$240,000 for an 80-acre parcel on Golden Valley Road between Estates and Spearhead Drive.

1996: Voters reject a \$196 million bond sale proposal, which included money for a north valleys high school.

November 1997: School trustees tentatively approve sites in Golden Valley and Spanish Springs for two new high schools in 1998 bond.

November 1998: Voters approve a \$176 million bond sale, including high schools in the north valleys, Spanish Springs and southeast Reno. Trustees give final approval to the two sites.

January 1999: Reno City Council and Washoe County Commission members request an analysis of alternate sites in Stead for the north valleys high school.

Witnesses say officer's life was in danger in police shooting

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A police officer's life was in danger when he fatally shot a suspect at a business complex, witnesses have told a coroner's jury.

One witness said officer Gregory Ziel tried to save the life of suspect Douglas Oswald just minutes after Ziel shot Oswald. Ziel, 27, was being dragged alongside a stolen truck that Oswald was driving when the officer fired the fatal shot.

The events that led to the 32-year-old's death started when Ziel and officer Clifford Mogg were told Oswald and another man, identified as Tony Howard DiPietro, 34, of Las

Vegas, were trying to sell stolen construction equipment at a business complex near Interstate 15.

Moments after police said DiPietro left J & Enterprises, where they were trying to sell tools, a witness told Ziel and Mogg approach a man in a pickup in the complex parking lot. Oswald was in the driver's seat of the truck and DiPietro was in the passenger seat, police said.

A woman police have identified as Joan Signorello, 23, of Las Vegas sat between the two men.

Both officers identified themselves as police and repeatedly ordered the three out of the truck.

Instead, the truck lurched forward, pinning Ziel between the truck and an open passenger-side door as he struggled with DiPietro, police said.

Witnesses said Oswald tried to drive away, causing the truck to strike several parked cars and slamming the truck door against Ziel.

At the same time, Mogg was on the driver's side of the truck, ordering Oswald to stop.

Police have said Ziel was the officer who fired the shot that killed Oswald. Mogg fired one shot from the rear driver's side of the vehicle, but did not damage.

Patient found dead after wandering away in triple-digit heat

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Authorities are trying to determine what killed a 91-year-old Alzheimer's patient whose sunburned body was found several hours after she wandered away from a nursing home in triple-digit heat.

Workers at the North Las Vegas Care Center found the body of Margaret Sheets by a nearby storage shed Saturday evening.

Sheets apparently was able to leave the facility around 4 p.m. or a short time later through a door that was supposed to have an alarm on it, North Las Vegas Police Lt. Joe Forti said Wednesday.

Workers found Sheets about 7

p.m. She had collapsed by the shed on the facility's grounds.

Forti said the woman was severely sunburned.

Temperatures on Saturday

reached into the triple digits.

The Clark County coroner's office conducted an autopsy Wednesday, but a cause of death will not be released until investigators receive results from toxicology tests.



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