

THE UNION



TRUCKEE
Frontrunners emerge
in Town Council race
LOCAL | A3

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PHOTOS BY ELIAS FUNEZ/EFUNEZ@THEUNION.COM

Community members were given their first in person look at the newly remodeled historic Holbrooke Hotel Thursday afternoon as hotel staff hosted tours. Rooms can be booked at www.Holbrooke.com. The hotel opens to the public Saturday.

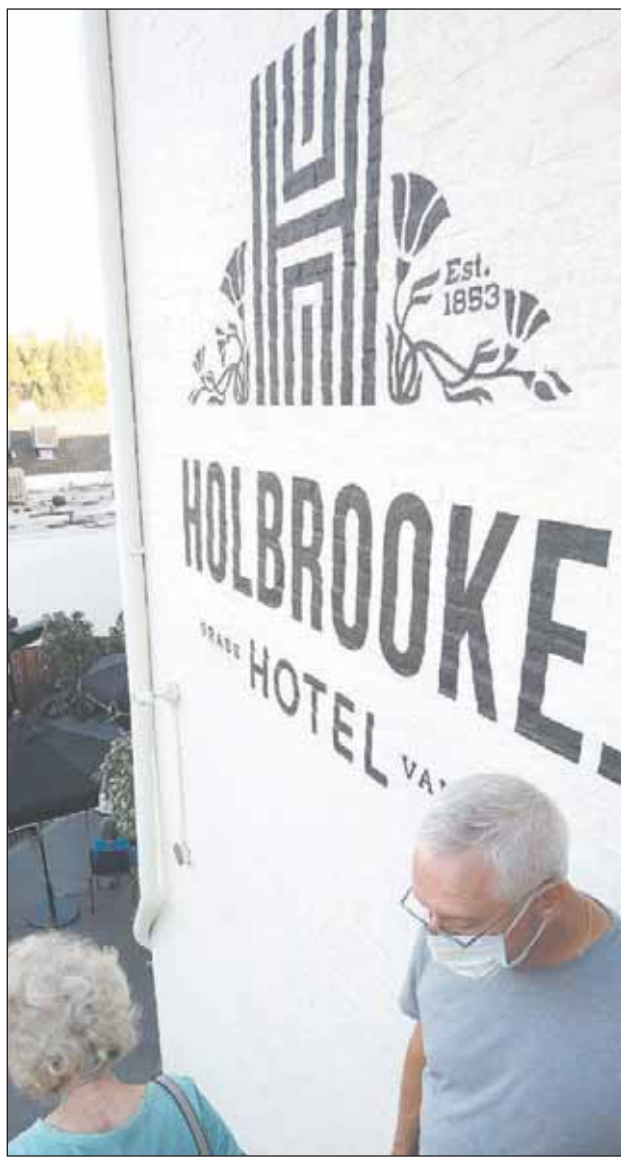
Now booking Remodeled Holbrooke opens to public Saturday



A custom made seating arrangement is one of the many personalized pieces of the Holbrooke Hotel, which will be open to the public Saturday. The Golden Gate will be open every day for breakfast and lunch 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and dinner 5 to 10 p.m.



Holbrooke Hotel event sales manager Erin Lewis guides one of a handful of tours of the remodeled building given to members of the community Thursday.



Members of the community take the tour of the new Holbrooke Hotel Thursday in advance of its reopening to the public Saturday.

‘Moderate victory’

Deal reached in Nevada City tree-sitting protest

By John Orona
Staff Writer

After nearly a week alone in a Pioneer Cemetery tree, a Nevada City tree activist nicknamed “Tarzan” has come down following a deal with PG&E that protesters are calling a “moderate victory.”

PG&E spokeswoman Brandi Merlo said Thursday the company has agreed to only top the tree at 85-90 feet instead of cutting it down, and will not press charges against activists. The tree-sitter, Brandon Jonutz, agreed to come down and will face a trespassing citation. Jonutz and Save Nevada County Trees organizer Matt Osypowski also agreed not to continue their activism

against PG&E’s vegetation management in Nevada City.

According to Merlo, cutting the tree to 90 feet would make it “no longer a risk to our system.”

Jonutz said after returning to the ground, he now plans to get married.

“We made the decision a week ago, but Tess just formally proposed to me,” he said.

For Jonutz the ordeal, aside from police confrontations, was a pleasant one.

“It was one of the most beautiful experiences with camping I’ve ever had,” Jonutz said of his six days in the tree. “The community really cares about trees and cares about each other.

TREES, A5

TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRPORT DISTRICT

Frontrunners await more vote totals in race

By Rebecca O’Neil
Special to The Union

TRUCKEE — David Diamond appears poised to take a seat on the Truckee Tahoe Airport District Board, according to election results.

Diamond received 2,771 votes in Nevada County, and 2,905 votes in Placer County, for a total of 5,676 votes.

Incumbent Rick Stephens received 2,370 votes from Nevada County and 2,538 votes from Placer County, bringing his total to 4,908.

Incumbent and serving Board President Teresa O’Dette received 3,358 total votes. Ken Aronson got 2,981, and Leigh Golden received 2,795.

The top three vote-getters will be seated on the board.

Diamond said he remains “cautiously optimistic” as

votes are still being counted between counties for the special district, as winners have not been officially announced.

“I haven’t posted anything on social media because I don’t know what’s going to happen,” Diamond said.

Diamond heard Dave Mencarelli on 101.5 FM Truckee Tahoe Radio announce that he was in first for the race from the open door of his car as he pulled signs from the side of the road on election night.

Diamond said if the election’s final results align with the current projections, he is looking forward to being on a board cohesive enough to accomplish a lot over the next four years.

“When I think of the five people who at this point in

AIRPORT, A5

WEATHER

H: 51°
L: 35°

See full forecast, Page A8
Scattered showers



OBITUARIES

Beth Humphrey Grady
John DiFeo
Alan Falstreu

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COVID-19 total climbs to 688

The total number of coronavirus cases in Nevada County rose by seven on Thursday, bringing the new total to 688.

Western county had 420 cases, and eastern county had 268. There were 73 active cases on Thursday, an increase of six from the prior day. There have been 606 people released from isolation, and nine deaths. Cases have continued to

climb in the county. There were 553 on Oct. 6. That rose to 573 on Oct. 13, and 598 on Oct. 20. There were 623 cases on Oct. 26.

Three people were hospitalized locally Thursday with COVID-19.

Of the 23,101 tests performed locally, 3% of people have tested positive.

Nationwide, there were 9,463,782 total cases, and 233,129 deaths, the CDC states.

— The Union staff

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The MEB 2 Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports ANew Day Counseling Services, local youth activities, and suicide and depression awareness.

LOCAL, NATION & FROM PAGE ONE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump speaks at the White House Thursday in Washington. "This is a case when they are trying to steal an election, they are trying to rig an election," said Trump.

Trump hits election integrity with unsupported complaints

By Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller and Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With votes still being counted across the nation, President Donald Trump on Thursday sought to undermine confidence in the nation's election, making unsupported accusations from the White House about the integrity of the results in his race against Democrat Joe Biden.

Hours earlier, Biden offered reassurances that

the counting could be trusted, projecting a more presidential appearance while urging patience from Americans.

The candidates' sharply contrasting postures intensified a national moment of uncertainty as the nation and the world waited to learn which man would collect the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency. Trump pursued legal options with little success, working the phones and escalating efforts to sow doubt about the outcome of

the race.

His path to victory narrow, Trump pushed unsupported allegations of electoral misconduct in a series of tweets and insisted the ongoing vote count of ballots submitted before and on Election Day must cease. And in his first public appearance since late on Election Night, he amplified the conspiracy theories amid the trappings of presidential power.

"This is a case when they are trying to steal an election, they are trying to

rig an election," said Trump of Democrats, whom he accused of corruption while providing no evidence.

He made similar claims about election integrity during the 2016 campaign, which he went on to win. This time, he was speaking not as a candidate, but as the sitting president of the United States.

Biden took a different tack, speaking briefly to reporters after attending a COVID-19 briefing to declare that "each ballot must be counted."

TREES

From page A1

six days in the tree. "The community really cares about trees and cares about each other. They want to preserve the natural beauty of the town center for next generations."

According to Jonutz, he was prepared for the long haul as soon as he climbed into the tree.

"I came prepared," he said. "I took a week off of work and I got everything ready. I knew I might get stuck up there."

Ospowski said while the victory was small — only saving two-thirds of

one tree, out of 263 trees proposed for mitigation — he's glad they were able to bring PG&E to the negotiating table.

"For me it's a real validation of our activism and acknowledgment of the fact that standing up, holding your place, actually works," he said.

Ospowski warned other communities dealing with PG&E to "be aware and be involved early."

While protesters celebrated across from the cemetery on Spring Street, Orchard Street resident Kathy Dotson said it may have come at a price.

"Unfortunately they've

turned all eyes and energy onto Orchard Street now," she said of PG&E contractors. "It's like full assault and it's pretty awful."

To contact Staff Writer John Orona, email jrona@theunion.com or call 530-477-4229.

John DiFeo

January 7, 1927 - October 8, 2020

John DiFeo, 50 year Incline local passed peacefully at home with family by his side. He's survived by his 3 children, Jack, Jenna & Leslee, 3 grands & 3 great grands. He lived a good, long life, proud & strong to his final days. His ashes will be placed alongside his wife, Marceline who passed in 1995. The son of Italian immigrants John was the last of 8 siblings. He was ready to "go home" & be with his family. He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

BETH HUMPHREY GRADY

January 17, 1944 - October 26, 2020



Beth Grady was born on January 17, 1944, in Wenatchee, Washington. With her parents, Robert and Roberta Humphrey and her 3 siblings, she moved with her family 4 years later to Tucson, Arizona. She graduated from Amphitheater High School where she played in the band and then attended the University of Arizona.

She moved to California and worked in several capacities for many years in the finance department of Southern Pacific Railroad, retiring as the Assistant to the Controller. She and her husband, Ed, both took early retirements and moved to Grass Valley, California, where she flourished while socializing and playing golf and bridge. During this time she earned the bridge title of Grand Life Master!

After 35 years fighting a very difficult cancer, she peacefully passed away on October 26, 2020. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Ed Grady, of Grass Valley, California, her beloved rescue dog, Molly, and her step-son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Geri Grady of Rancho Mirage, California. Her 2 sisters, Shirley Schoof and Lois Angus and her brother Alan Humphrey and his wife Jane, all of Tucson, Arizona, also survive her.

At her request there will be no official memorial service. Donations in her name may be sent to the choice of the donor.

TOWN COUNCIL

From page A3

All votes haven't yet been counted in this year's election. The results are unofficial and incomplete. The next vote tally release is expected today.

4-YEAR SEATS

Courtney Henderson has 2,444 votes, and Lindsay Romack sits in second place with 1,983 votes. If they hold the first and second-place spots, they'll be seated on the council.

"I'm really looking forward to serving our community and I feel incredibly grateful that so many people have put their faith in me to do just that," said Henderson. "A huge part of my campaign focused on listening to our community, and I intend to keep doing that and really working to ensure we are building a healthy community and a resilient future for all of us who live and work in Truckee."

Henderson has a background that includes roughly 15 years' experience in the public health and energy sector, which has included stops throughout the U.S., India and Africa. She is also on the technical advisory group for the Sierra Business Council.

Romack is in position to claim the other Town Council seat.

Romack has lived in the area for 16 years, and currently works as a district director for Placer County. She has past experience as a member of the municipal advisory council in Olympic Valley and currently is on the Mountain Housing Council.

Dow Costa sits in third place with 1,209 votes. Marcy Dolan is in fourth place with 839 votes, Frank Bernhard is in fifth place with 582 votes, Jack Forbes is in sixth place with 346 votes, and Nicholas Sielchan is in seventh place with 180 votes.

2-YEAR SEAT

In the race for Truckee Town Council's two-year seat, Jan Zabriskie holds more than a 600-vote lead over Carla Embertson.

Zabriskie has claimed 2,241 votes at this point, while Embertson has garnered 1,578 of the votes.

"There's still enough room for that to switch," said Zabriskie on holding a lead. "I would just love to have enough votes tallied that I could feel comfortable ... I'm cautiously optimistic, but with still at least half of the votes to be counted, we just have to wait and see."

Justin Scacco is a reporter for the Sierra Sun. Contact him at jscacco@sierrasun.com or 530-550-2643.

BOOTH

From page A3

and personal use of a deadly weapon, as well as an unrelated vandalism charge. A Nevada County judge sentenced him to eight years and eight months in prison, authorities have said.

Paulin, 43, has pleaded not guilty and will return to court for a felony conference on Dec. 4. He was released on his own recognizance, court records show.

Contact reporter Liz Kellar at 530-477-4236 or by email at lizk@theunion.com.

AIRPORT

From page A1

time appear to make up the board — including Kat Rohlf — this could be one of the most community-focused, productive airport boards we've ever seen," Diamond said. "I'm really excited."

The fifth person on the board is Mary Heatherington, who didn't have to run for election this year. Lisa Wallace didn't seek reelection.

Diamond said the board he anticipates joining is made up of creative problem solvers and he is honored to join their contingent on behalf of the community.

Diamond said he was surprised to receive the most votes out of any candidate who ran in the race, but his commitment to solving regional problems and communicating transparently with the district's constituents is paramount.

ACTIVE BOARD

Stephens said he used the same campaign signs in 2020 as he did in 2016. Similarly, Stephens' concerns with aviation safety, noise and annoyance and community support remain constant.

Stephens said navigating his campaign amidst the pandemic and COVID-19-related concerns was challenging, but the board has remained active over the past few months.

Stephens said the airport

board not only appointed a replacement for pilot and former chair Jim Morrison, who left in August, but secured funding for local conservation efforts.

"It was a million, but at the last board meeting we agreed to put a half million dollars into the Tahoe Donner Land Trust," Stephens said.

Almost 30 acres south of the Truckee River, called Truckee Springs, was originally slated to be housing, Stephens said.

"Now it will be open space, and we'll be able to run Legacy Trail from Brockway Road to where the Truckee River turns south toward Squaw," Stephens said. "The land trust has put a sign on property — 'Coming soon: Nothing.'"

O'Dette said she is grateful a pilot will be joining the board, but is not likely to celebrate until the election is certified — a process that could take about 30 days.

"I'm super excited David Diamond won, because I depend on a pilot's voice on the board because it's valuable," O'Dette said.

O'Dette did not run a campaign this election cycle and reiterated that as an elected representative to the district, she has "no more agenda other than to do great things."

"With the five people looking like they'll probably be on the board, I'm optimistic we'll get some great things done," O'Dette said.

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Honoring our Veterans

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11. Originally known as Armistice Day, this special day commemorates the end of World War I—on the 11th hour, 11th day, and 11th month of 1918.

At Hooper & Weaver, we salute all of the men and women who have served in our country's armed forces, and the families of our veterans who have felt the effects of war.

Thank you for your service.

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