

Tom McClintock narrowly wins El Dorado County

By Jeff Munson
Tahoe Daily Tribune

TAHOE, Calif. — Republican Tom McClintock is the El Dorado County winner in a closely watched, highly contentious race for the 4th District congressional race against Democrat Charlie Brown, the El Dorado Registrar of Voters has determined.

McClintock declared himself the winner Monday but Brown's campaign was still not giving in. There are nine counties in the district and not all counties had turned in their final votes as of this afternoon. Today is the deadline.

"The votes have been counted, the election is over," GOP candidate McClintock said in a Roseville press conference on Monday. The announcement was made as El Dorado County had yet to make its results official.

Registrar Bill Schultz said today that all ballots had all been counted and the race shows McClintock has won the county with a 50.57 percent over Brown's 49.19 percent. Total ballots for McClintock were 45,542 to Brown's 44,302.

In the county's Lake Tahoe precincts, however, Brown clearly took the majority. Out of 16 precincts, Brown won by nearly 70 percent. Out of 11,024 total ballots, Brown garnered 7,705 votes to McClintock's 3,319, according to the registrar's office.

Brown campaign spokesman Todd Stenhouse said the campaign has not conceded and voting data is being reviewed.

"Despite the tallying of a record 370,000 votes, and completion of a 1 percent and 10 percent recount in all nine (district) counties, both candidates remain separated by less than half of one percent," Stenhouse said. "There have been more than 15,000 recorded 'under votes' and thousands more disqualified provisional and absentee ballots. We remain committed to ensuring a fair and accurate count where every voice is heard, and will be evaluating the results over the next 24 to 48 hours to determine if any additional action is warranted on the part of our campaign."

The state senator from Southern California said he won the election on two major fronts. The first was when he was victorious over Doug Ose in "a very brutal primary."

The second reason was the 4th District did not get caught in the "liberal wave that lapped over America" in the Nov. 4 election. "You've been heard around the country," McClintock said.

The district and the race have been under a national microscope since 2006, when current Congressman John Doolittle (R-Roseville) beat Brown by 9,000 votes in one of the nation's most steadfast GOP districts.

Doolittle remains under investigation for his contacts to jailed lobbyist Jack Abramoff. When his wife's office was raided by the FBI in connection with the investigation, matters became even tougher politically for Doolittle.

Last January, Doolittle announced he would not run for a 10th term in Congress but would not say his decision was connected to the Abramoff scandal. However, Nevada County Republican Central Committee Chairman Bill Neuhardt said he suspected national GOP leaders had talked to Doolittle. All along, Doolittle has denied any wrongdoing.

The self-declared winner said he is looking for an apartment to rent in the Washington, D.C., area, and his wife is looking for their permanent home in the Roseville-Rocklin area. McClintock is from Southern California, though he has maintained a residence in the Sacramento area since becoming a state senator.

Federal law states that a congressional candidate does not have to live in the district in which he or she represents, but they do have to reside in the same state.

In El Dorado County there were 93,890 total votes, or an 84.34 percent turnout.

Delayed Science dig finally takes place

By Rhett Morgan
Tulsa World

COLCORD, Okla. — Delaware County Commissioner Dave Kendrick admits he doesn't know archaeology from a hole in the ground.

But he is sure of this: A scientific dig finally taking place here has delayed since 2003 the construction of a new bridge.

"This old bridge is in bad shape," Kendrick said of the nearly 80-year-old structure, which sits over Spavinaw Creek northeast of Colcord. "We've been trying for five stinkin' years to get it built. I have some Indian heritage myself. But you and I would not spend a quarter of a million dollars digging up those rocks. It's just not profitable, plus the time that has been lost doing this."

When a grinding basin and several arrowheads were uncovered during the bridge's design phase in 2003, it was estimated to cost about \$750,000, a price tag he said is destined to rise because of inflation.

Partially funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the current \$200,000 excavation that started a few weeks ago has unearthed stone tools estimated to be between 2,000 to 8,000 years old, said Larry Haikey, an archaeologist from BIA's Eastern Oklahoma Office in Muskogee.

Haikey, who is providing technical

assistance to the county, said the dig could be over by the middle of the month. That means construction on the BIA-funded bridge, which is in the Cherokee Nation, could begin in the spring, Delaware County commissioners said.

But to those with an untrained eye, such as Kendrick's, the ordeal has been hard to fathom.

"Most of the articles they have found, you can't tell they are anything but some old rock," said Kendrick, who oversees Delaware County District 2. "... If this was a burial ground and they were finding stuff just hand over fist, you or I or no one would want to go through there and ruin the history and the findings. But what they are finding, you can't justify it."

Prehistory unearthed

Rebar pokes out of the crumbling concrete bridge, which sits on a winding gravel road between Jay and Colcord. District 3 Commissioner Billy Cornell said the county wants to build the new 300-by-28-foot structure about 100 yards downstream from the existing one.

But for now, heavy construction is taking a backseat to prehistory.

Near the creek are numerous rectangular holes that lie next to wooden tables and mounds of sifted dirt. Once the 1-by-2-meter excavation units are chosen, workers use either trowels or

shovels to dig 10 centimeters at a time, carefully recording what they recover, Haikey said.

"You go until you run out of artifacts, what we call sterile soil," said the archaeologist, who said the units average about a meter deep.

A total of about 50 units on either side of the creek are expected to be excavated, Haikey said. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation paid \$15,500 for the first archaeological study on the bridge in 2003, Kendrick said.

Since then, the county has struggled to find the funding for the current project, which is being paid for by BIA (\$50,000) and ODOT (\$150,000), Kendrick said.

The projects have been performed in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, which manages the historic resources of the country and cultural integrity of Indian tribes and other indigenous groups, Haikey said.

"The thing that made these sites particularly significant was the fact that they had very little damage to them through farming or erosion or weathering," Haikey said. "It appeared as if they did indeed have the artifacts in place as the people left them or used them. They weren't moved around."

People in the business call that "context," he said.

"An artifact in isolation doesn't tell

us much," Haikey said.

"But an artifact in relationship to others can tell us so much more."

Significance

Hank McKelway, who has a doctorate in anthropology, is a cultural resource manager for AMEC Earth and Environmental, a worldwide company that is leading the dig.

Artifacts found to date, he said, include a celt (ax head) and bits and pieces of rock, which are by-products of the spear point or arrowhead. Ultimately, the artifacts will be curated at the Institute of the Great Plains in Lawton.

McKelway said that while artifacts can look "meager" at first glance, their analysis can allow scientists to "reconstruct the activities at the site. That fits into a broader picture of how the Native Americans were utilizing the landscape in that area at that time."

He said the area represents a "deeply stratified site," meaning it can be thought of as layers of cake.

"There might be several layers of that cake and each one represents an earlier time period," McKelway said. "So the top of the cake is the most recent activity of the Native Americans, and the bottom may be very, very old. By looking at the artifacts and the different layers, you can actually see changes in their life ways."

Report rejects racism as factor in Dumas's death

By Chris Kitching
Winnipeg Sun

WINNIPEG, Canada — An inquest judge's report into the police shooting death of Matthew Dumas rejects claims racism was a factor and recommends police implement scenario training to prepare officers for similar situations.

Judge Mary Curtis oversaw the two-week inquest in June, and her report was publicly released today.

In it, Curtis writes there was no evidence to support the claim Dumas's death was the result of racism.

"Mr. Dumas' behavior and choices drove the events which led to his death on January 31, 2005," Curtis wrote in the 74-page report.

Curtis's job wasn't to lay blame for the death but to determine the circumstances and what, if anything, can be done to prevent similar deaths.

Dumas, 18, was armed with a screwdriver when fatally shot by a Winnipeg police officer during a confrontation on Dufferin Avenue. The officer who fired the fatal shots testified he feared Dumas was going to stab him.

Police suspected Dumas was involved in an attempted robbery in Elmwood earlier in the day. Police later learned Dumas had nothing to do with the incident.

Family of potters



Jim Tiffin/Independent

Joseph Lewis, his wife Sandra and daughters Shondiin, rear left, and Megahn, are in the family business of making Acoma and Navajo pottery. The family was one of 68 vendors at the Grants Christmas Arts and Crafts Show at the Future Foundations Family Center this past weekend.

Charges filed in beating

By Eric Newhouse
Great Falls Tribune

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Three brothers who allegedly beat and kicked Glacier County Commissioner Ron Rides at the Door three months ago were charged with felonies Friday by the Montana Attorney General's Office.

Todd, Brian and Aaron Molenda were charged with felony assault with a weapon, presumably their boots. The charges were filed by Chief Criminal Counsel John Connor Jr. on Thursday, and signed by District Judge Laurie McKinnon on Friday.

"Given the community reaction and the pressure exerted, we expected these charges," said Meghan Lulf Sutton of Great Falls, the brothers' attorney. "So we aren't surprised, but we are disappointed and we will continue to fight these charges."

The Molendas originally were each charged with misdemeanor assault, but those charges were dismissed at the request of the attorney general's office, Cut Bank City Attorney Robert Smith said Wednesday night.

On Thursday, the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council demanded the resignation of Glacier County Attorney Larry

Epstein, noting the absence of any charges in the September incident. The council added that it believed "Epstein can no longer effectively represent the Indian people of Glacier County because of his racial bias, which leaves the Indian people with no protection or fair prosecution of the crimes perpetuated against them or any impartial county adviser on relevant legal issues facing them."

The council previously demanded that the state file felony charges against three brothers in Cut Bank, calling it a hate crime because the Molendas allegedly used racial slurs as they beat Rides at the Door.

Epstein previously said he believed Rides at the Door was attacked because he tried to break up another fight by threatening to call the police, not because of his race. He declined to file felony charges, saying the incident didn't appear to fall under the state's hate crime statute.

Last month, the Montana attorney general's office reviewed the case and agreed with Epstein that the alleged beating was not racially motivated. However, it raised the possibility that the misdemeanor assault charges could be re-filed as felonies under a different section of state law.

Crow Nation of Montana horse-mounted unit to march in Inaugural Parade

By Shannon Gilson
Reznet News

WASHINGTON — In keeping with its commitment to hold inaugural events that celebrate our common values and reflect the diversity and history of our great nation, President-elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden's Inaugural Committee officially extended an offer to the Crow Nation of Montana Horse Mounted Unit to march in the 56th Inaugural Parade.

Members of the Crow Nation of Montana Horse Mounted Unit will join representatives from across the country and our Armed Forces in the historic parade down Pennsylvania Avenue following President-elect Obama's swearing-in ceremony on the steps of the Capitol.

"I am honored to invite these talented groups and individuals to participate in the Inaugural Parade," said

President-elect Obama. "These organizations embody the best of our nation's history, diversity and commitment to service. Vice President-elect Biden and I are proud to have them join us in the parade."

Organizations wishing to participate in the parade submitted an application to the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (AFIC), which then assisted the Presidential Inaugural Committee in reviewing all of the groups' applications. All told, 1,382 organizations applied to participate, setting a new standard for interest in marching in the parade.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee was assisted in its selection process by a group of experienced military musicians, who utilized their expertise to help assess the presentation skills of marching bands, musical acts and drill teams.

Two dozen Crow Nation members will ride paint horses single file. President-

elect Obama visited the Crow Nation in Crow Agency, Mont., in May.

All participants in the Inaugural Parade are responsible for paying for their own lodging and transportation to and from Washington, D.C. The Committee has been working closely with area governments and civic organizations to facilitate access to affordable accommodations and would like to encourage citizens from across the country to reach out and help the Crow Nation of Montana Horse Mounted Unit raise the necessary resources to participate in this historic event.

If you are interested in finding out more about supporting the Crow Nation of Montana Horse Mounted Unit and their participation in the 56th Inaugural Parade, please contact Robert Old Horn, Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the Crow Nation Robert Venne, at 406-638-3868 or Donald Spotted Tail at 406-638-3717.