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Gannon to make Hall as leader of unlikely state champions
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Mystery surrounds body discovery

Decomposed remains found off I-80 in Auburn

BY GUS THOMSON
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

Caltrans workers at the scene of a late-night crash made a grisly discovery — a badly decomposed body off Interstate 80 in Auburn.

Authorities were able to trace the body to the man's Minnesota family and dental

records confirmed his identity — Ryan Michael McCormick, 29, a transient who had not communicated with relatives for several months.

But the Placer County Coroner's Office is left with a mystery that it hadn't been able to solve by Friday — How did McCormick die?

According to the Placer County Sheriff's Office, the body was found shortly after 2 a.m. on Monday by workers called to the scene of a crash

off westbound I-80 at the Elm Avenue onramp.

Sgt. Martin Fredericks of the California Highway Patrol said that officers were continuing an investigation into the death. Hampering the investigation, the body had been at the side of the freeway for quite some time and decomposition had set in, he said.

The coroner's office was able to trace the corpse back to Minnesota relatives of McCormick's because of a

document found with his belongings, Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Dena Erwin said. Dental records sent by McCormick's relatives to investigators confirmed the identity, she said.

The coroner determined that there was nothing in the vicinity of where the body was found to indicate the death was of a suspicious nature, Erwin said.

But there was also no obvious cause of death determined by Friday, she said.

Arrest after attacks on Greyhound bus

Rio Linda man hobbled before arrest at Colfax bus station

BY GUS THOMSON
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

COLFAX — A bus ride destined for Colfax was thrown into disorder after one man was struck by a fellow passenger, who then groped a woman also aboard the Greyhound, according to the Placer County Sheriff's Office.



Luke Patrick Burruel

A 25-year-old Rio Linda man struck a male passenger, who suffered injuries on his arms from the attack, the Sheriff's Office said.

• SEE ARREST PAGE A3

EARTH APPRECIATION



MICHAEL KIRBY • AUBURN JOURNAL

Auburn residents Ronin Dragon, 8, Ryken Dragon, 3, and Raden Dragon, 6, make seed bombs with the help of Katy and Brian Fries Saturday. The interactive booth was one of many at Auburn's Some Kind of Earth Day Festival. For more information on the festival and more photos, see auburnjournal.com.

Auburn's Knee Deep, Sony in 'Breaking Bad' legal 'brew'haha

Lawsuit says logo is too close for legal comfort

BY GUS THOMSON
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

Sony is suing an Auburn brewery over its use of "Breaking Bad" imagery in a popular "Breaking Bud" beer.

Sony is claiming in a lawsuit filed this past week that Knee Deep Brewing Co. is infringing on its "Breaking Bad" trademark — including the TV show's logo that features abbreviations for chemical elements bromine and barium from the periodic table. It's asking a California court for an injunction to

• SEE LAWSUIT PAGE A12

Ranger veteran retiring from Auburn State Recreation Area



JOURNAL FILE PHOTO

Supervising Ranger Scott Liske is retiring after 15 years with the Auburn State Recreation Area and State Parks.

April 30 will be last patrol day for Scott Liske

BY GUS THOMSON
OF THE AUBURN JOURNAL

Retirement for Auburn State Recreation Area supervising ranger Scott Liske means an opportunity for something new to him but not necessarily to too many other people.

"I've earned a summer vacation — finally," Liske said.

For 15 years as a State Parks ranger in the 35,000-acre recreation area, Liske has patrolled canyon areas above the north and middle forks of the American River that are both scenic and dangerous. Timing of shifts is

dictated when the most people will be in the park.

"The last 4th of July I had off was in 1985," Liske said. "Part of being a ranger is working holidays and weekends. When most of society is off, I'm working."

So this coming summer and retirement will mean Liske will have time for experiencing what others were experiencing while he was working as a ranger. That means the freedom to travel inside the U.S. and overseas, he said. April 30 will be his last patrol day.

Now 56, Liske started his career with the state in 1985 as a Cal Fire seasonal firefighter. During the summer fire season, Liske was stationed near Angel's Camp off

Highway 49, working there for seven fire seasons. Coincidentally, the last two digits of his badge number are "49" and he's been working out of the State Parks office on Highway 49 at Auburn since 2003.

Liske was on the groundbreaking Morris Fire near Monterey that burned several homes along 17-Mile Drive. That fire changed Cal Fire actions during fires toward protecting structures as well as lives.

Moving over to serve a four-year stint as a state correctional officer at maximum security Folsom Penitentiary, Liske was planning to continue with Cal Fire, after hiring resumed.

• SEE LISKE PAGE A12

CHP officers shoot, kill suspect following pursuit through Nevada, Placer counties

STAFF REPORT

A high speed chase through Nevada and Placer counties ended with the shooting death of the driver Friday afternoon in Foresthill.

"As he got into Foresthill, almost adjacent to the high school, he slowed to a speed (that allowed) the use of legal intervention — making contact with the vehicle to disable it," California Highway Patrol Officer David Martinez said Saturday. "At that point, there was an officer involved shooting."

Two CHP officers fired their weapons, he said.

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