

Tax revolt already is top story of 2009

editorial

When the Bonanza last week narrowed down its choices for the top 10 story topics of 2008, it was not an easy task, and many story topics just missed the cut.

One of those story topics was the tax revolt situation in Incline Village and Crystal Bay, an issue that has been ongoing for six years, a topic the Bonanza staff, both current and past, has written about extensively in this space.

There's no doubt this is a very important issue to this community, and that was assured as 2008 wound down, when Judge Charles McGee added to a list of big decisions by higher courts last year by ruling that Washoe County must refund 830 parcels as soon as possible.

This decision could hold a ton of bearing for all the other pending cases. Unlike the Oct. 30 Supreme Court decision that affects 8,700 parcels, in which it is unknown if or when refunds will be given, Judge McGee's ruling orders refunds to happen ASAP, and county staff right now is working the numbers.

The dominoes are falling, folks, and with each powerful ruling from the district and state supreme courts, it seems they are tumbling with a bit more force. It's only a matter of time before the State Board of Equalization reconvenes to hear the 8,700 cases that stem from the Oct. 30 court order in regard to the 2006-2007 tax year.

If the state board rules Washoe County must refund 8,700 parcels, the dominoes will begin falling like sledgehammers.

At a time when the county might struggle to find funds for 830 refunds, what happens if the SBOE decides soon they need to come up with 10 times that?

For these reasons, we did not include the tax revolt among the top stories of last year. Instead, we see this as the No. 1 story heading into 2009.

By the time this year is over, and we compile our top stories of 2009, the tax revolt will be an easy choice for the No. 1 slot.

So easy, in fact, that we've already made the call.

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