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CASINO . RESORT



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

phone.

Before the Camp Fire, Paradise PD was home to 21 sworn officers. Down by about 24 percent, it operates today with 16, Reinbold and a lieutenant included, though a handful of recruits are in the pipeline, the chief said.

Since the fire, Reinbold has encouraged folks in the burn scar to remain vigilant, to watch out for their neighbors. But with so few residents re-establishedapproximately 3,000 people have returned to this former town of 27,000—that type of community policing isn't easy.

In response, Reinbold said his department is setting up a meetand-greet in the coming weeks with residents who are captains in the town's evacuation zones. The idea is to form relationships with them and help spread a philosophy of working together.

Meanwhile, with all of the construction starting up, he's encouraging folks who are rebuilding to take extra precautions with their equipment and supplies. Simply locking things up—as the Bagnatos learned the hard way-may not be an adequate measure to stop thieves.

"While it's an inconvenience to move stuff in and out all the time, it's a best practice," he said.

Allison, Bagnato said, has taken the theft particularly hard. Since the fire, she's expressed her feelings more often in angry outbursts and also through drawings—first of her home on Sleepy Hollow Lane and now of the missing RV.

Bagnato nearly purchased a house near her parents in Yuba City—primarily to be closer to her family, her support system but she changed her mind and was able to back out of escrow. She wasn't emotionally ready to step away from her life on the Ridge, and she's comfortable in Chico, where she's been working part-time.

"I don't want to be far from my house in Paradise," she said, pausing, "even though it's not a house anymore."

-MELISSA DAUGHERTY

melissad@newsreview.com