

Residents or tourists: Who are Nevada's medical marijuana laws really intended for?

By Chris Kudialis, Las Vegas Sun

Reclining leather seats, a 42-inch television screen and stencils of bright red marijuana leaves illuminate the back of 420 Tours' sport utility vehicle. The SUV, along with a 30-foot bus, are used by Nevada's first cannabis tour company, which takes people looking for a medical marijuana card and legal pot from street corner to dispensary in less than an hour.

Using the app EaseMD, 420 Tours founder Drew Gennuso connects pre-screened passengers who have a California ID or U.S. passport with a California doctor, live over video chat, in the back seat of the "Cannabus" SUV. The patients, frequently picked up on the Strip, describe their symptoms, receive a doctor's recommendation printed on the spot and are taken to a Las Vegas dispensary of their choice.

Nearly three years after landmark legislation legalized medical marijuana dispensaries in Nevada, patients and licensed business owners remain trapped in a grueling application process that keeps legal pot unattainable to many in the state.

And while Nevada patients and retailers stumble through the state's red tape, entrepreneurs are cashing in on Nevada's reciprocity laws, which allow out-of-state patients to play here by their own states' more lenient rules.

Read the whole story

Caltrans seeks input on statewide plan

California Transportation Plan 2040 lays out a vision for state's transportation future by providing mobility, supporting a vibrant economy and meeting greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

CTP 2040 envisions a fully integrated, multimodal and sustainable transportation system in California. It is designed to meet the state's goal to reduce emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Now Caltrans wants the public's input on the plan. The public may review and comment on the plan by going **online**. Comments must be submitted by 5pm March 29.

4-day wine festival in El Dorado County

Each spring the El Dorado region comes alive to offer wine enthusiasts an assortment of wine and food pairings, barrel tastings, art, music, and other activities.

El Dorado Winery Association's 25th annual Passport Wine event is April 9-10 and April 16-17 from 11am-5pm. Twenty-four wineries will be participating.

Passport holders will receive a commemorative 25-year wine glass.

For tickets and more information, go **online**.

Alexander Osti – 1931-2016



Alexander Osti

Longtime South Lake Tahoe resident and business owner Alexander Osti died of heart failure Feb. 21, 2016. He was 85.

Born in Santa Monica to immigrant parents, Alexander was a first-generation Californian. His first job at age 13 was in a slaughterhouse. He retired as a journeyman butcher in 2006. During his career he worked in numerous slaughterhouses in Southern and Northern California, and at Harveys Casino as a meat cutter before establishing his own business in Tahoe, the

Ranch Butcher.

The joy of his life was his family and the love of his life was his wife, Elvira. The two were inseparable. If you saw one, you knew the other was somewhere close by.

Alexander was always telling the story of how he met Elvira and their 90-day romance that lasted until her death in 2007.

Alexander is survived by his son, Lamont “Buffy” Osti, and his wife, Constance Osti; daughter Margo Osti; grandson Adam Osti, his wife Allegra Osti and their daughter Alexis Osti; grandson Eric Osti, his wife Trisha Osti and their children Hayden and Sophia Osti; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral will be on March 3 at McFarlane Mortuary in South Lake Tahoe. The rosary will be recited at 10am, the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am, with the burial at Happy Homestead Cemetery immediately to follow.

SLT parade discussion becomes circus event

By Kathryn Reed

While the discussion was about a parade policy, the spectacle was more like a middle school play yard filled with prepubescent teens squabbling over something so inane that no rational adult would understand the significance of the banter.

And, yet, the people doing the bickering were the five elected

members of the South Lake Tahoe City Council and the city manager, with the city attorney seeming to be the reluctant referee.

South Lake Tahoe City Councilwoman JoAnn Conner asked for the parade policy to be on the agenda. She organizes parades through her business Golden Bear Events.

In the city's 50-year history, there has never been the need for a parade policy. No one, according to city staff, has wanted such a policy except for Conner. Staff said no one has complained that there isn't one, nor has anyone filed any sort of grievance about how things have been handled, nor have they required clarification regarding the permit that must be obtained to put on a parade.

A handful of parades go through the city each year – the homecoming parade for South Tahoe High School, Slow Rollers bike parade, Conner has put on a Fourth of July parade since 2012 and she does one for Christmas Cheer, and there are random other ones such as the Olympic celebration and Jaycee Lee Dugard's return.

Conner has wanted city resources – like police and fire – to be in her parade, as well as officers to provide an escort.

Police Chief Brian Uhler explained that several factors are considered when deciding if a police escort is required. The size of the parade is one, as is the route, time of day, day of week and other criteria. He said the limited number of vehicles Conner had last July 4 did not warrant an escort.

City Manager Nancy Kerry, when not being interrupted, tried to explain that no city resources could be in a parade organized by a city council member.

Conner vehemently and repeatedly insisted she makes no money from the parades, but instead produces them as a fundraiser either for veterans or Christmas Cheer. She claims the Fair

Political Practices Commission has ruled there is no conflict because there is no financial benefit to her. She said the letter is in her file. The city told *Lake Tahoe News* it does not keep files on council members.

While Conner's bank account may not have a positive cash flow from the parades, she is collecting money from participants. She is then able to write a check from her business to the designated charities; the tax write-off would be a benefit. She can also curry political favor such as votes by putting on these parades with city resources. That is the rub, and the type of conflict that the FPPC has not weighed in on. She also has her business name on all promotional material.

It is highly unusual for an elected official to even be participating in a discussion about the business they are in when it is an agenda item. For example, Councilman Tom Davis recuses himself on a regular basis regarding vacation rentals because of his stake in Tahoe Keys Resort.

Councilman Hal Cole took issue with the year then-Councilwomen Brooke Laine and Angela Swanson were not invited to be in the Fourth of July parade. Conner blamed it on the veterans not wanting them. Davis said he spoke with board members of the American Legion and they had no idea what Conner was talking about.

At the end of the meeting March 1, the motion was made to adopt the policy as presented and for the city to put on a Fourth of July parade. This passed with a 4-1 vote; Conner in the minority.

She nearly went ballistic when Davis proposed the idea of the city putting on the parade. But it was his idea long before she started putting on her parade. Those two went at it verbally.

Conner was adamant the action was all about taking work away from a local business. Cole reminded Conner that she said she

doesn't make money off the events, and therefore said it wasn't taking business away.

Conner said in a good year she makes \$200 to \$300 for the veterans. Cole and Davis said they would ensure the veterans are compensated, and would help them raise money.

Councilman Austin Sass said there is nothing stopping Conner or anyone else from putting on a parade in addition to the city's.

Opinion: School bonds can be source of scandal

By Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee

Over the last four decades, California has borrowed nearly \$45 billion via bonds to finance construction projects for the state's K-12 school districts.



Dan Walters

Repaying the loans with interest has roughly doubled the face value of those bonds. And as Jerry Brown winds down his second governorship, he wants to change the practice.

Public school enrollment has been dropping and is likely to

drop even more, Brown says, adding that the state is still paying out \$2 billion a year to service old school bonds and construction money has been doled out unfairly, with little regard to true need.

Read the whole story

Dugard to release second memoir in July

By Robert Salonga, Mercury News

Jaycee Lee Dugard, who miraculously resurfaced in 2009 after 18 years of captivity in an Antioch back yard during which her kidnapper fathered two daughters with her, will release a second memoir chronicling her life since being freed, her publisher announced Tuesday.

“Freedom: My Book of Firsts,” is set for a July 12 release, five years to the day from the publication of her first memoir, **“A Stolen Life,”** a heart-wrenching, disturbing autobiographical account of Dugard’s life between her abduction as an 11-year-old girl from her Meyers neighborhood in 1991 to when she revealed herself to be still alive in a Concord parole office.

In a press release, publisher Simon & Schuster says the new book details her first experiences upon being freed from the clutches of captors Phillip and Nancy Garrido in August 2009, by which point she had two daughters by Phillip – who first impregnated her when she was 13 – who are now teenagers.

Read the whole story

Study explains reason behind science achievement gap

By Rebecca Klein, Huffington Post

The seeds of the achievement gap in science are planted before a child has ever set foot in an elementary school, according to a new study.

The new report out this month looks to explain why white, upper-class eighth-graders tend to perform much better in science than their low-income and minority peers.

Unfortunately, the answer involves a series of factors beyond any child's control. By the time they enter kindergarten, white, affluent students already have a much larger general knowledge of science than their minority classmates, the study shows. This gap follows white and black students beyond elementary school to middle school, where more affluent students substantially outperform their peers on measures of science achievement.

Read the whole story

2 Tahoe businesses honored for climate-smart strategies

Two of the 19 businesses recognized by the California Air Resources Board for leadership and making notable, voluntary

achievements toward reducing their carbon footprint are from Lake Tahoe.

Elevated Fitness in South Lake Tahoe and Granlibakken Resort in Tahoe City were among the business that took a number of different actions to save money and improve their business operations while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts.

Some of the steps the 19 businesses took included installing LED lights, solar panels, and energy-efficient equipment; manufacturing biodiesel or using biodiesel fueled vehicles; eliminating toxic chemicals and solvents; using eco-friendly, recycled/reused/repurposed products; composting food scraps and plant material; and starting or enhancing recycling and water conservation programs.

Tour of California racing teams announced

Teams competing in May's Amgen Tour of California bike race, which includes stops in Lake Tahoe, were announced today.

The 11th annual men's event will include 10 UCI WorldTour Teams, the most in race history, as some of the top cyclists in the world face off across nearly 800 miles of California terrain May 15-22. The four-day Women's Race will showcase some of the best talent in the sport and run in tandem May 19-22.

The 18 professional men's teams confirmed for the 2016 Amgen Tour of California include:

UCI WorldTour:

- BMC Racing Team (USA)
- Cannondale Pro Cycling Team (USA)
- Etixx – Quick-Step Pro Cycling Team (BEL)
- Team Dimension Data for Qhubeka (RSA)
- Team Giant – Alpecin (GER)
- Team KATUSHA (RUS)
- Team Lotto NL – Jumbo (NED)
- Team Sky (GBR)
- Tinkoff (RUS)
- Trek – Segafredo (USA)

UCI Professional Continental Teams:

- Direct Énergie (FRA)
- Team Novo Nordisk (USA)
- UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team (USA)

UCI Continental Teams:

- Axeon Hagens Berman Cycling Team (USA)
- Holowesko | Citadel Racing Team p/b Hincapie Sportswear (USA)
- Jelly Belly p/b Maxxis (USA)
- Rally Cycling (USA)
- Team WIGGINS (GBR).

The full list of confirmed teams for the 2016 Amgen Tour of

California Women's Race empowered with SRAM includes:

- BePink (ITA)
- Boels-Dolmans Cycling Team (NED)
- Canyon/SRAM Racing (GER)
- Colavita | Bianchi p/b Vittoria Women's UCI Pro Team (USA)
- Cylance Pro Cycling (USA)
- Drops Cycling Team (GBR)
- Hagens Berman | Supermint Pro Cycling Team (USA)
- Hitec Products (NOR)
- Podium Ambition Pro Cycling p/b Club La Santa (GBR)
- Rabo-Liv Women Cycling Team (NED)
- Rally Cycling (USA)
- Team TIBCO-SVB (USA)
- Twenty16 – Ridebiker (USA)
- UnitedHealthcare Pro Cycling Team (USA)
- USA Cycling (USA)
- Visit Dallas DNA Pro Cycling (USA)
- Weber Shimano Ladies Power (ARG)
- Wiggle High5 Pro Cycling (GBR).