

Barton on cutting edge with digital medicine

By Robert Glatter, Forbes

In a first, Barton Health will implement a unique digital medicine offering for treating hypertension, one of the most common chronic medical conditions in the U.S.

Referred to as Proteus Discover, the digital medicine offering incorporates an ingestible sensor – activated upon contact with stomach acid—which provides the information needed for patients and their physicians to partner on their health. This could include information related to a patient's vital signs and the exact time the digital medicine offering was taken.

Proteus Discover, which utilizes FDA-approved technology incorporating ingestible digital sensors developed by Proteus Digital Health, represents the first commercial use of such technology after the recent success of initial clinical trials evaluating efficacy and reproducibility of the innovative monitoring technology.

Read the whole story

Suit alleges NV Energy deceived customers on solar panels

By Michelle Rindels, AP

CARSON CITY – Nevada residents with rooftop solar panels are suing NV Energy, saying the company used incentives to lure them into investing tens of thousands of dollars before conspiring with regulators to raise rates and render their systems less valuable.

Las Vegas solar panel owners John Bamforth and Stanley Schone filed a complaint in Clark County on Jan. 12, alleging the company manipulated regulators into approving higher prices that took effect Jan. 1. They're seeking class-action status to represent other solar panel owners.

The suit argues NV Energy "acted illegally to reduce said incentives, rebates, and/or credits," and said the plaintiffs "would never have agreed to invest in, purchase, and install a solar photovoltaic system had (they) known the defendants would act in an anticompetitive manner to restrain trade."

An NV Energy spokeswoman said the company does not comment on litigation.

Nevada lawmakers passed a bill last spring asking energy regulators create new rates for metering, which is the process of solar panel owners selling excess power back to NV Energy. Regulators approved new rates in December that they say phase out a subsidy traditional customers pay to cover about 17,000 solar customers, and better reflect the declining cost of wholesale solar energy.

The plaintiffs allege the structure, which will raise base rates over five years and reduce the amount the utility pays to buy energy back from panels, will make it much harder to pay back their solar panel investments and is part of a conspiracy to cripple the solar market. Both said they put around \$40,000 into their solar systems.

Plaintiffs say NV Energy didn't do a scientific study on the benefits of net metering and lied about the cost of serving solar customers, although the complaint doesn't offer further

details about what plaintiffs say were knowingly false statements.

The complaints echo concerns raised at recent regulatory meetings by solar advocates, who question the premise that traditional customers are subsidizing solar customers and point to a study that found net metering provided a net financial benefit to Nevada ratepayers overall.

But regulators and NV Energy say that study, done in 2013 and 2014, doesn't reflect current realities in the rapidly changing energy market.

They say solar customers still rely on NV Energy's electrical infrastructure to provide consistent power at night, on cloudy days or whenever their solar panels aren't offering enough electricity, and argue solar customers should pay their fair share to maintain the grid.

Talk to focus on exercise for health

Lake Tahoe Community College will host a free talk focusing on what science has revealed about what kind of exercise is needed to achieve and maintain optimal health.

Walter Morris' talk Exercise: A Potent Medicine? will be on Jan. 27 at 6pm in the board room at the college.

Morris will explore the evidence from recent studies showing how exercise can be just as effective as many prescription drugs in treating some of the leading causes of illness and death in the United States.

As a full-time faculty member at LTCC since 1999, Morris has taught exercise physiology, sports nutrition, exercise program design, plyometrics, basketball, and other classes.

Teen court seeks South Lake Tahoe students

El Dorado County Teen Court in South Lake Tahoe is recruiting student participants for the spring program.

There will be a volunteer training on Jan. 21 for interested students in grades 8-12. It will be from 5-6:30pm at the El Dorado County Superior Court, Department 4, located at 1354 Johnson Blvd. in South Lake Tahoe.

After completing the mandatory training, teens serve as court personnel for real cases in which a minor has committed an offense, admitted the offense and chosen to be judged for sentencing by their peers. Superior Court judges and senior attorneys preside over teen court. Community attorneys donate their time to help students develop their cases.

Students should arrive at the courthouse no later than 4:45pm. Pre-registration for the training is not required. Courtroom attire is required. Teen court hearings will be held February through May on scheduled Thursday nights. A calendar of hearing dates will be given at the training.

For more information, call 530.573.7964.

Weather hampers efforts to find missing skier



Carson May

Dozens of people are continuing to search for Carson May, the Sugar Bowl Ski Resort instructor who has been missing since Thursday.

The 23-year-old was not working when he was last seen. He was reported missing Friday.

The search has been focused on where May's phone "pinged" on Friday.

"It's believed his phone battery is dead, as the phone is no longer responding. This area has had recent avalanche activity," according to the Placer County Sheriff's Office.

Bad weather on Sunday has grounded two helicopters. The avalanche danger is still high.

Assisting Placer with the search are members of the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue; Marin, Nevada and Douglas county's search teams; and two U.S. Forest Service avalanche teams.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Calif. water conservation rules may be loosened

By Matt Stevens, Los Angeles Times

Water providers that have struggled in recent months to meet conservation targets could soon get some relief under the modified drought rules unveiled Friday by state regulators.

The proposed changes to California's emergency drought regulation reward water districts for investing in new local supplies and allow for adjustments to savings goals based on a district's climate and population growth.

Friday's proposal also allows water providers to reduce their "conservation standards" by as much as eight percentage points. A previous plan had said that a water district's target should drop by no more than four percentage points.

Read the whole story

TOCCATA sets WinterFest lineup

Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus continues its 11th annual WinterFest with Elizabeth Pitcairn in Concert, performing with the legendary Red Mendelssohn Stradivarius violin.

The program opens with Felix Mendelssohn's symphonic choral

masterpiece Elijah (Part 2), featuring vocal soloists Anna Helwing, Joy Strotz, and Becky Earl, sopranos; Liudmila Mullin, mezzo soprano; Brad Perry and Sherman Modeste, tenor; and Stuart Duke, Chris Nelson and Chris Langton, baritones. Finalizing the concert will be Elizabeth Pitcairn, guest violinist, performing Brahms' Violin Concerto in D major. Jeffrey Lindhorst is Tahoe Symphony concertmaster. Maestro James Rawie will conduct all performances.

The performances are Jan. 29 at 7pm at St. Theresa Church in South Lake Tahoe (1041 Lyons Ave.); Jan. 31 at 3pm at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in South Reno (100 Bishop Manogue Drive); Feb. 3 at 7pm at Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Carson City, (3597 Sunridge Drive), and Feb. 5 at 7pm at Cornerstone Church in Incline Village, (300 Country Club Drive).

Two special soiree musicale fundraisers will take place at private locations. The first will be at the Supper Club at Genoa Lakes Golf Course on Jan. 30 at 3pm and the second at a home on Lakeshore Boulevard in Incline Village on Feb. 6 at 3pm. Tickets are \$125 per person. Pitcairn will perform, as well as Strotz and Helwing, Mullin, and Perry, accompanied by Donna Axton on piano. For more details or to reserve tickets call 787.602.2121.

Concert tickets are available at the door or **online**. Preferred seating is \$40 and \$15 for youth/students. General admission to all concerts is \$30 for all adults, \$25 for seniors, and \$5 for students 19-23.

Mountain festival embraces outdoors at Tahoe

The Alpenglow Mountain Festival is a bi-annual, nine day celebration of human-powered mountain sports, events, clinics, equipment demos, presentations, film and more.

Exploring some of the best activities Lake Tahoe has to offer, the event is the only mountain lifestyle event in North America that is mostly free and community-centric. It runs Feb. 20-28 on the North Shore. Backcountry ski touring, snowshoeing, and yoga highlight the event.

The event includes film, presentation, and equipment demos. The Alpenglow Mountain Festival is geared toward beginner and intermediate mountain enthusiasts.

The complete events schedule is **online**.

Talk to focus on backcountry fun

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association is putting on a presentation about how to recreate in a snowy backcountry.

Guest speaker and TRTA guide Jordan Summers will inform trail users with helpful tips about what gear to carry, how to navigate and what safety precautions you need to take before heading out.

The free talk will be Feb. 24 from 6:30-8:30pm at Granlibakken in Tahoe City.

Space is limited. To register, go **online**.

Then and now: Camp Rich's dining room



The Camp Rich dining room in 2015.
Photo/Bill Kingman.

Historically, the ground floor of this landmark building was the large Camp Richardson Dining Room for the summertime guests of the resort.



The Camp Rich dining room in the 1930s.
Photo/Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Dinner was served from a fresh menu typed daily. Or, a fisherman could leave his catch at the kitchen to be enjoyed that evening as prepared by staff and served to his table. Notice the wood-burning stove pipe at left, and the fireplace on the far wall.



Camp Rich dining room in 2015.
Photo/Bill Kingman

After the neighboring general store building collapsed under snow load in 1985, most of the historic dining room became the

new general store while retaining the fireplace end of the building and a few tables. Summertime adds several more tables, just outdoors on the lawn.

– *Bill Kingman*