Farm-to-table dog food gaining popularity

By Craig Giammona, BloombergBusiness

Richard Thompson cuts into a tube of Chunky Chicken and Turkey Recipe, just off the manufacturing line. The chief executive officer of a small gourmet-food manufacturer is obsessed about the quality of his products, so he uses only fresh ingredients, eschews preservatives and limits the time meals sit on shelves to make sure they're eaten while still exploding with flavor.

His manufacturing chief, Michael Hieger, picks up a slice and pops it into his mouth to prove just how delectable it can be. Says Hieger: "Tastes just like Thanksgiving."

We're talking dog food, of course.

The impromptu tasting occurs on a tour of the Freshpet Inc. factory in Pennsylvania which cranks out the only industrial refrigerated pet food on the market. The company is among a group of fast-growing innovators in the $23.7 billion pet-food industry that is winning the hearts – and opening the wallets – of dog and cat owners with healthy chow you'd almost believe is as good as what you put on your dining-room table.

Read the whole story

Utah prosecutor investigating

Reid

By Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah county prosecutor said Wednesday he is investigating Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., in connection with a pay-to-play scheme involving two former Utah attorneys general.

Davis County Attorney Troy Rawlings, a Republican, said in a statement that he’s looking into allegations related to the Senate leader.

Rawlings declined to disclose the allegations and only said the claims are based on information from witnesses in the attorneys general case.

Reid, who hasn’t been charged, fired back at Rawlings in a statement from his spokeswoman Kristen Orthman. She said Rawlings is using “Sen. Reid’s name to generate attention to himself and advance his political career, so every few months he seeks headlines by floating the same unsubstantiated allegations.”

Reid has denied wrongdoing since a businessman said in 2013 that a former Utah attorney general arranged a deal to pay the senator to get rid of a federal investigation into a software business.

Federal prosecutors declined to file charges in the case.

Rawlings said he has a duty to follow up on leads in the attorneys general case and has been granted permission to investigate possible statewide crimes in relation to the case.

He said he’s limited by what he can disclose due to judicial rules but decided to confirm that he’s investigating Reid in response to questions from a local newspaper.

“To simply ignore and run from what has been presented by multiple witnesses and sources . . . would mean I am either intentionally blind, or overly worried,” Rawlings said in the statement.

Reid’s name came up as Rawlings looks into the actions of former Utah attorneys general John Shurtleff and John Swallow.

The two were arrested last summer after prosecutors said the men engaged in a wide-ranging, pay-to-play scheme where they traded favors with businessmen in trouble with regulators during their combined 13 years running the state office.

Swallow has pleaded not guilty to bribery charges. Shurtleff has pleaded not guilty to obstructing justice charges. Both have trials scheduled in 2016.

Rawlings renewed his criticism of the U.S. Department of Justice for limiting what information he has access to and what he can investigate.

Justice officials closed their investigation in 2013 without filing charges. FBI investigators stayed on the case to help state attorneys who took it over.

“It is not up to the DOJ to tell me who can and who cannot be investigated and what evidence is relevant and material to a state case,” Rawlings said.

Justice officials declined comment.

Rawlings has been the top prosecutor since 2007 in Davis County in northern Utah. He won his first election to the post after working as an attorney in the office for six years. He started his career as a defense attorney.

He has partnered several times with Salt Lake County’s Democratic district attorney, Sim Gill, including on this case before the two divided duties.

Gill backed Rawlings' actions on the case. Gill said he and Rawlings both committed to following all leads when they took the case, and this one falls to Rawlings since he's the one with authority to handle statewide crimes.

"I trust Troy to do what he deems is right and appropriate," Gill said. "I think he's trying to do his due diligence."

The disclosure by Rawlings that he's looking into the accusations against Reid was first reported by *City Weekly*, a newspaper in Salt Lake City.

Open house to celebrate SLT's 50 years

South Lake Tahoe is hosting an open house on Nov. 30 at 3pm to celebrate the incorporation of the city 50 years ago.

It is free and open to everyone.

The event will be at Lake Tahoe Airport.

Sandoval ranks among most popular governors

By Sean Whaley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

CARSON CITY – Gov. Brian Sandoval may be suffering some political fallout for the $1.4 billion tax plan he pushed

through the 2015 Legislature, but a poll of Nevada voters shows he is one of the most popular governors in the country.

The public opinion survey of all 50 governors by Morning Consult shows Sandoval with a 66 percent approval rating. Another 20 percent disapprove of the second-term Republican governor while 14 percent did not know. Morning Consult is a politics and polling publication based in Washington.

The results are from 740 registered Nevada voters with a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points. The polling was conducted over the course of several months, from May to November.

Read the whole story

Blood drive in South Lake Tahoe

BloodSource will conduct a blood drive in South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 18.

The blood drive is sponsored by the Barton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. Walk-ins are welcome from noon-5pm.

Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, be 17 years old (16 year olds need a signed BloodSource Parental consent form) and be generally healthy. There is no upper age limit for blood donations. Donors must bring a photo ID and should drink plenty of fluids before donating.

The blood drive is at the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Center, 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

West Slope businessman pleads guilty to stealing from tribe

By Denny Walsh, Sacramento Bee

Like his two co-conspirators before him, Darrell Patrick Hinz on Friday confessed his role in an $18 million theft from the United Auburn Indian Community, which owns the booming Thunder Valley Casino Resort near Lincoln.

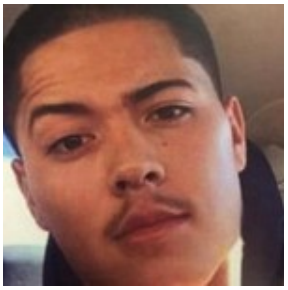
Hinz pleaded guilty before U. S. District Judge Troy L Nunley to conspiring in the massive fraud with Bart Wayne Volen, a developer and contractor who did a building project for the tribe, and Gregory Scott Baker, the tribe's administrator at the time. Hinz also admitted laundering the loot to hide its source and filing a false income tax return for the year 2007.

Read the whole story

Missing SoCal man last seen

in Truckee

A Barstow man on his way to Truckee for a job interview has not been heard from for nearly a month.



Daniel Gallardo

Daniel Gallardo, 19, stayed with relatives in Reno on Oct. 26. The interview was the next day. He was to start work Oct. 28 but did not show up.

He drove a 2012 white Nissan Altima with California license plate 7NUA045. The car is also missing. In this time Gallardo has not used his credit cards or social media.

Gallardo is 5-feet-6-inches, 130 pounds, brown hair and brown eyes.

Anyone with information is asked to call Reno police at 775.657.4774 or Barstow police at 760.256.2211.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Realities of prescription drug abuse

By Amy Rothermel, Deseret News

Prescription medications are part of millions of Americans' daily existence – at least 60 percent of Americans take at least one prescription drug according to the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. While medications can be helpful and even life-saving, some are addictive and have a high abuse potential.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug abuse was the top cause of injury death in the United States in 2013. Amazingly, this means more Utahns died from overdosing on prescription drugs than in traffic accidents.

Some people start taking these medications as prescribed for legitimate pain but end up becoming addicted to them.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



Photo/Bill Kingman

· The sign above was seen in South Lake Tahoe on Nov. 19.

· The Truckee Planning Commission hearing on Canyon Springs has been continued to Dec. 1 at 6pm. Public comment remains closed and the meeting will resume with deliberation.

· Homewood plans to open Dec. 11.

· CareFlight has named Dean Dow as its executive director.

· On Dec. 16 at 6pm Friends of the Library will host a reading with local author Jennifer Quashnick. She recently published “Mountaingirl Mystery- Sierra Nevada River of Lies”. The free event is at the South Lake Tahoe Library.

CHP putting more officers on streets for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving weekend, traditionally one of the busiest travel times in America, can also be one of the deadliest. The California Highway Patrol will have all available officers on

patrol.

In 2014, 45 people died in collisions on California roadways – a 36 percent increase from Thanksgiving 2013. In addition, the CHP arrested almost 1,000 people for driving under the influence.

Extra officers will be on duty from Nov. 25 at 6pm to Nov. 29 at 11:59pm.