Medical marijuana cards growing in Nev.

By Chanelle Bessette, Reno Gazette-Journal

As the medical marijuana industry booms in Nevada so does the demand for patient cards.

Medical cannabis was legalized in Nevada in 2000, but it took 15 years for storefronts to open, with the first Nevada dispensary opening in Sparks in July. Now, with more dispensaries open in Reno and Las Vegas, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health has seen a spike in the number of applications throughout the state.

In October 2014, Nevada had 6,541 active patient cards. As of last month, that number has nearly doubled to 12,091, with 549 additional applications pending.

The application process for a card in Nevada is completely on paper, so potential patients have to request an application either via mail or in person in Carson City.

Read the whole story

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

· Barton Health's hospice will host a ceremony to honor people who have died. The event is Dec. 17 from 6-7pm in the North Room at Edgewood Tahoe. For further information or to share an honoree, call 530.543.5592 or email tbruess@bartonhealth.org.

· Wind forced Heavenly Mountain Resort to be closed Nov. 15. It should be a powder day on Monday.

· Three high school students were recognized at the Truckee Veterans Day celebration for competing in the town's first Veterans Day essay contest. Kaitlynn Lake placed first, Ryan Murphy second and Aaron Bokinskie.

· Diamond Peak expects to open Dec. 10.

· Three seats are open on two citizen advisory groups charged with advising the Placer County Board of Supervisors on decisions affecting Squaw Valley. The vacant seats are on the Squaw Valley Municipal Advisory Council and the Squaw Valley Design Review Committee. The appointed positions are unpaid and do not have decision-making authority. Here is the application.

Fatal fire ruled accidental, started in kitchen

The mobile home fire that ended with the death of a Stateline woman on Nov. 13 started in the kitchen, according to investigators.

The Ponderosa Avenue fire has been ruled an accident. The origin was the stove-range, Tahoe Douglas Fire Marshal Eric Guevin told *Lake Tahoe News.*

The name of the woman who died has not been released. Firefighters pulled her from the burning structure, tried to resuscitate her, but she died at the scene.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Heavenly, Northstar conditions wow skiers



Snowmaking along with Mother Nature allowed Northstar to open earlier than normal. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

TRUCKEE – Smiles and praise for the conditions dominated the conversations about opening day at Northstar and Heavenly on Saturday.

Jim Lamore, director of mountain operations at Northstar, was giddy and proud when talking about the coverage – bark-to-bark – meaning the whole run has snow, it's not just a strip of white.

“Even if we get a warm spell, we are in great shape,” Lamore told *Lake Tahoe News.*

The depth on Nov. 15 ranged from 18 inches to 4 feet. That’s plenty for the groomers to move around to make sure no obstacles are showing.

Northstar skiers were treated to an extra early opening on Saturday when Beth Howard, general manager of the resort, said get the gondola running. This was 20 minutes before what was supposed to be the official 8:30am opening. The 100 or so people in line didn’t mind.



Jim Lamore, mountain operations director at Northstar, is ecstatic with how much terrain is open.

Howard had tested the slopes the day before so she knew what the guests were about to experience.

“I’m pleasantly surprised,” Matt Hunstock of Santa Rosa said of the conditions. Even though he didn’t ski a single day last season, he likes coming back to Northstar – noting the guest services are better here than other places.

Ian Balmer of Australia was lucky the resort opened a week earlier than originally planned because he was flying home that night. For mid-November he was impressed with the amount

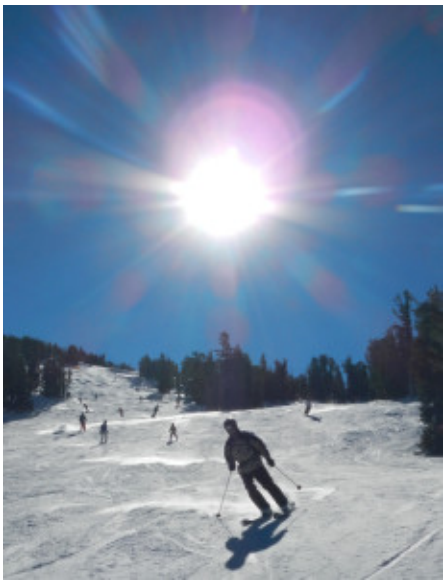
of snow.

The Truckee resort is open top-to-bottom with seven lifts and 14 features in the Pinball terrain park.

“We have the biggest footprint in Lake Tahoe by far,” Lamore boasted.

Changing where the snow guns are working has made a difference.

Heavenly on Saturday had the gondola, Tamarack Express, Dipper Express, Comet and Big Easy running. This is quite a contrast to a year ago when the resort opened a week later with just the terrain off Tamarack skiable with manmade snow.



Blue skies and 50-degree weather for opening day will be replaced with snowy 30-degree temps on Day 2.

Jerry Klosterboer has been buying season passes at Heavenly since the 1978-79 season. This is the first time he remembers skiing two weeks before Thanksgiving. Passes then were $425 and day passes were $23, so it took a lot more ski days to

have the pass paid for compared to today. He paid $459 for his pass this year; a single-day ticket for today is $94.

Yohei Takami of Concord was excited to be skiing on some natural snow so early.

“The snow is good. This is typical Heavenly snow. I’m pretty happy with the conditions,” Adam Oliff of San Jose said.

While the coverage is good at both resorts, a clear sign it is early season conditions is the lack of tree skiing. Northstar kept a few areas ungroomed so riders could get a taste of powder next to the groomers.

With another storm expected to drop a foot of white stuff today at the higher elevations, it is only going help all of the Tahoe resorts.

Editorial: Paris attacks – What is the sensible response to this horrific act?

Publisher’s note: ***This editorial is from the Nov. 14, 2015, Los Angeles Times.***

After the terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris in January, it was clear that France wasn’t immune to acts of violence motivated by a warped interpretation of Islam. It was also foreseeable that that risk would increase with France’s participation in the launching of airstrikes against Islamic State in Syria as well as Iraq. Still, Friday’s orchestrated carnage in Paris – for which Islamic State has claimed responsibility – came as a shock.

As with 9/11 and other acts of terrorism, the multiple attacks that killed more than 120 people in the French capital will (and should) lead to an inquest into whether internal security and intelligence collection were adequate. In his comments, French President Francois Hollande went frrther, describing the attacks as an “act of war” and promising that France would use “all means anywhere, inside or outside the country” to defeat Islamic State.

For Americans, those words were reminiscent of President George W. Bush’s declaration after 9/11 that the U.S. would act if the Taliban government in Afghanistan didn’t end its support for Al Qaeda and other terrorists. Soon afterward, with support from Congress, the U.S. invaded Afghanistan, and American troops remain in that country to this day, albeit not in a combat role.

Read the whole story

Small towns face rising suicide rates

By Laura Beil, New York Times

After her family moved from suburban New Hampshire to the wind-whipped plains of southeastern Wyoming, Monica Morin embraced small-town life, forging lasting friendships and celebrating her own quirky style.

Dark-haired, with hipster glasses and a disarming sense of humor, Monica was a “why-not kind of kid,” her mother, Kim Morin, said. The kind who would wear a giraffe costume to the grocery store, just because.

Last year, during Monica’s sophomore year of high school, her mood began to darken. She turned to alcohol and marijuana, and some days withdrew from the close relationship she had always had with her parents, who, although long divorced, remained friends and partners in raising their only child. After her descent into drinking, she started cutting herself.

Morin was alarmed, aware that family history was not in her daughter’s favor. Her sister had developed bipolar disorder in her teens, eventually drinking herself to death. Her father had taken his own life when Morin was 19.

Monica’s parents sought help for their daughter’s despair, driving her two and a half hours to Casper for inpatient treatment. As the year drew to a close, Monica seemed to be improving, clinging to a fragile stability with twice-weekly counseling. On the afternoon of Feb. 4, after Monica and her mother returned to their apartment from a doctor’s appointment, Monica said she needed to finish homework in her room.

Some time later, she took a shower and asked her mother if they could snuggle on the sofa and watch a movie before going to bed.

“I love you, Mom,” she said, as Morin stroked her hair.

Not long into the film, Monica suffered a seizure. The paramedics who responded to Morin’s frantic call searched Monica’s room and discovered an empty bottle of over-the-counter allergy pills pilfered from her mother’s medicine cabinet. She died at Ivinson Memorial Hospital that night.

“You replay everything in your head,” Morin said in her living room recently, her voice shaking. “Wondering what else you could have done.”

Stories like Monica’s unfold with disturbing frequency across small-town America. Rural adolescents commit suicide at

roughly twice the rate of their urban peers, according to a study published in the May issue of the journal JAMA Pediatrics.

The fight over the world's biggest ski resort

By Megan Michelson, Outside

In 1991, a development company set out to build a high-elevation, year-round ski resort on a remote glacier in British Columbia's Purcell Mountains. The company's plans promised over 5,600 vertical feet and 20-plus lifts accessing four mega glaciers at what they called Jumbo Glacier Resort.

Many have been fighting the development for decades. Local residents want to see their backyard kept wild, the Ktunaxa First Nation believes the land is sacred and shouldn't be built upon, and scientists and environmentalists say the region is a major wildlife corridor and a development could jeopardize habitat for grizzly bears and other animals. Although the opposition had a major triumph this summer when the local government denied the project's environmental assessment certificate, the developers say the resort is still a go, albeit with an altered construction plan that won't require an environmental assessment. They hope to resume construction within the next couple of years.

A Patagonia-funded film called "Jumbo Wild", premiered in October, aiming to give voice to people on both sides of the debate.

Read the whole story

Santa ready to help Meyers light Christmas tree



A print of the event made by Ken McNutt at Bona Fide in Meyers.

Santa’s sleigh (aka CalStar) will touch down in Meyers on Dec. 4 at 5pm for the fifth annual tree lighting.

Meyers Community Foundation is putting on the free event in the Divided Sky/Downtown Café parking lot. Popcorn, hot chocolate and other goodies will be available.

Lake Valley Fire’s truck decorated with Christmas lights will be there as well.

Bill would limit for-profit colleges' access to federal funds

By Bobby Caina Calvan, Reveal

The White House this week put its weight behind legislation seeking to rein in for-profit schools siphoning hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars annually by preying on veterans and military personnel eligible for the GI Bill and military tuition assistance programs.

Using Veterans Day as a backdrop, the Obama administration announced its support for a Democratic bill dubbed the Protecting Our Students and Taxpayers Act of 2015. The proposal would close loopholes and reinstate tougher eligibility rules for federal education money.

In remarks at Arlington National Cemetery, President Obama noted the importance of the GI Bill in fulfilling the country's promise to repay the sacrifice of veterans.

"That's why we've helped more than 1.5 million veterans and their families pursue an education under the Post-9/11 GI bill," he said. "That's why we worked to make sure that every state now provides veterans and their families with in-state tuition. … And today, the veterans' unemployment rate is down to 3.9 percent – even lower than the national average."

The legislation seeks to transform the so-called 90/10 rule into an 85-to-15 split, forcing schools to rely less on federal funds if they want to continue participating in federal student aid programs. Under existing law, a for-profit

college must get at least 10 percent of its revenue from nonfederal student aid funds to qualify for the Department of Education's loan and grant programs.

But the GI Bill and military tuition assistance programs are not counted as part of that 90 percent, a loophole the proposed legislation seeks to close.

"This loophole has created a perverse incentive for some for-profit colleges to seek out and aggressively – and, sometimes, deceptively – enroll service members and veterans to skirt the law," Ted Mitchell, the Obama administration's undersecretary for education, said in statement.

"The intent of the law is simple: Quality for-profit programs should be able to secure funding that is not solely from the federal government," he said.

In addition, the White House announced that it has an agreement in place with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Federal Trade Commission for measures that "strengthen enforcement against schools that engage in deceptive or misleading advertising, sales, or enrollment practices towards Veterans."

A Reveal investigation published in June showed how the University of Phoenix, for one, sidestepped an executive order by Obama meant to prevent for-profit colleges from gaining preferential access to military bases.

Since taking effect in 2009, the Post-9/11 GI Bill has served more than 1.5 million veterans and provided $57 billion for tuition, books and other education-related expenses.

This money has become an important source of revenue for many for-profit schools. The country's largest for-profit school, the University of Phoenix, has reaped more than $1.2 billion in GI Bill money since 2009. Last year alone, it received $345 million to educate Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, along

with $20 million in tuition assistance from the Pentagon.

Last month, the Department of Defense barred university officials from recruiting at military installations and placed the school on probation. Until that probation is lifted, the university is forbidden from enrolling new students under the Pentagon's tuition assistance program.

The switch from 10 to 15 percent would not be new. Congress instituted the 85/15 standard in 1992 after investigations uncovered evidence of fraud and abuse. Six years later, that rule was relaxed to the current 90/10 standard.

"This high threshold allows far too much federal money to funnel to an industry that often provides a greater return on taxpayer investment to its administrators and investors than it does to its students," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, who joined three other Senate Democrats in sponsoring the bill.

It may seem like a small change. But last year, a *Reveal* investigation found that nearly 300 schools reportedly fall in the gap between 85 and 90 percent.

Another 133 for-profit schools would violate the 90/10 cap if the GI Bill loophole were closed. These schools were almost completely subsidized by taxpayers, receiving more than 90 percent of their revenue from a combination of Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, GI Bill funds for veterans and Department of Defense tuition assistance to active duty military.

"It is imperative that we remove the dollar sign from the backs of veterans and servicemembers by closing this egregious loophole," said Walter Ochinko, policy director for the nonprofit organization Veterans Education Success.

The proposed legislation faces a near-certain death if its sponsors and the White House cannot get some Republicans to sign on.

“We haven’t had any in the past, and no indication that will change. However, we are always hopeful and Senator Durbin thinks that this is an issue both parties should be able to get behind,” Durbin’s spokeswoman, Christina Mulka, said in an email.

Similar House measures have failed.

The Senate Bill, co-sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island, Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, would:

- Kick off for-profit schools after a year of noncompliance with the 85/15 formula, instead of allowing them two years under the current 90/10 law.
- Bar schools from what the senators consider accounting tricks that calculate unpaid school-sponsored student loans as revenues, even if the loan goes unpaid. Only actual payments would be counted as revenue.

As part of its educational initiatives for veterans, the Obama administration also announced today that veterans and their dependents are now eligible for in-state tuition in all 50 states, as well as in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

It also said the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching a redesigned website providing information on graduation rates and other factors to make it easier for veterans to compare schools.

In addition to his call for reinstating the 85/15 rule, Obama urged Congress to approve legislation that would require schools receiving GI Bill money to meet accreditation standards for certain programs, including law, teaching, nursing, criminal justice, psychology and health fields.

And the president pressed for passage of a bill that would reinstate GI Bill benefits to veterans enrolled in schools

that shut down. The proposal followed the implosion of Corinthian Colleges, which filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year. Once one of the country's largest for-profit schools, it left about 16,000 students looking for other options when it shuttered its 30 remaining campuses.

South Shore chamber gives out awards

The winners for the 8th annual Blue Ribbon Awards have been announced.

Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce receive more than 150 nominations.

The following are the winners:

Experience Award:
Winner: Rock Tahoe Marathon, Epic Tahoe Adventures
Honorable Mention: Camp Richardson Corral

Tourism Award:
Winner: Summer Concert Series, Harveys Lake Tahoe
Honorable Mention: Lakeview Commons, City of South Lake Tahoe

Geotourism Award:
Winner: Heavenly Mountain Resort
Honorable Mention: Lake Tahoe Museum, Lake Tahoe Historical Society

Entrepreneur Award:
Winner: Brian and Angela Luke, Artemis Mediterranean Grill and Lakefront Café
Honorable Mention: Mike Leeper and Pat Farrah, Lucky Beaver

Bar and Burger

Customer Service Award:
Winner: Salvador Delgado, Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel
Honorable Mention: Eric Campbell, Bank of the West

Public Agency Service:
Winner: Janelle Thomas and Tony Angelopoulos, Nevada Department of Transportation
Honorable Mention: Katherine Miller, South Lake Tahoe Library

The Wendell Award for a Green Business or Program:
Winner: Lake Tahoe Golf Course
Honorable Mention: SUP Tahoe.