

Justice Dept. memo lets feds close pot shops

By Bob Egelko, San Francisco Chronicle

In a newly disclosed memorandum, President Obama's Justice Department has told federal prosecutors they can file criminal charges against medical marijuana users and suppliers and shut down pot dispensaries, despite a congressional ban on federal interference with medical marijuana laws in California and other states.

The Justice Department had previously made its intentions clear by refusing to drop pending marijuana prosecutions and pursuing forfeiture actions against dispensaries, including Oakland's huge Harborside Health Center. But the Feb. 27 memo, made public Wednesday by Tom Angell of the advocacy group Marijuana Majority, provides the department's rationale for considering the congressional spending restrictions largely toothless.

The budget language passed in mid-December prohibits the department from using its funds to stop states from "implementing their own laws" on medical marijuana. But Patty Merkamp Stemler, chief of the Justice Department's Appellate Section, told federal prosecutors the congressional action "addresses actions directed against states, not individuals."

Read the whole story

Surge in egg prices affecting restaurants

By BloombergBusiness

Record-high egg prices in the U.S. are forcing restaurants to get creative with their advertisements.

Denny's Corp. is pushing burgers instead of omelets, while Dunkin' Donuts is advertising smoothies and iced coffees. Panda Express has swapped in corn for the eggs in its fried rice.

Blame bird flu for the changes. The worst U.S. outbreak of the disease killed more than 48 million fowl in the six months through mid-June. That sent prices surging 31 percent to a record \$2.57 for a dozen large eggs in June, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumers paid just \$1.96 in May.

Read the whole story

BLM scraps Burning Man VIP compound, grants permit

By Jenny Kane, Reno Gazette-Journal

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has scrapped demands for a \$1 million VIP compound at this year's Burning Man, the agency announced Friday evening.

The agency also announced that it granted Burning Man its special recreation permit for the 2015 event, which is allowed

to draw 70,000 people to Nevada's Black Rock Desert from Aug. 30 to Sept. 7. Burning Man is an annual arts celebration that has been held in Northern Nevada since 1990.

In June, the BLM requested that Burning Man pocket the expense to build a "Blue Pit Compound" on the event site, a living quarters area that would accommodate BLM law enforcement and officials from Washington, D.C., some of whom would only be visiting for a day or so.

Read the whole story

Placer County boots homeless from government land

By Brenna Lyles, Sacramento Bee

Dozens of homeless people camped out on the grounds of the Placer County government complex in north Auburn were forced to leave Thursday as a new ordinance took effect banning unauthorized camping on county-owned land.

Authorities estimated that 50 to 70 people had occupied camps sprawled across the county property. The camps started about a year ago and grew over time.

Jamie Brody, 37, who has been homeless for a year and a half, packs her belongings at a popular transient encampment in Auburn on Thursday. Residents of the encampment were evacuating after a Placer County ordinance banned unauthorized camping on county land.

Read the whole story

Sleep protects memories multiple ways

By Alena Hall, Huffington Post

A solid night's sleep is known to protect your memories from bouts of forgetfulness – and now we know it's making them more accessible, too.

New research from the University of Exeter and the Basque Centre for Cognition, Brain and Language is taking our understanding of the relationship between sleep and the brain's memory functions to the next level, exploring the idea that memories could be enhanced and made more available for use the following day.

"Sleep almost doubles our chances of remembering previously unrecalled material," researcher Nicolas Dumay said in a statement. "The post-sleep boost in memory accessibility may indicate that some memories are sharpened overnight. This supports the notion that, while asleep, we actively rehearse information flagged as important."

[Read the whole story](#)

Reno job growth impacting

Lake Tahoe



Mike Kazmierski, president and CEO of Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, talks Aug. 7 in South Lake Tahoe. Photo/Anne Knowles

By Anne Knowles

Lake Tahoe businesses are going to be facing increasing competition from Reno employers for a range of workers.

That's the downside of anticipated growth in the Reno area led by Tesla Motor's battery factory and Switch's data center, both under construction at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center, the 107,000-acre business park nine miles east of the Northern Nevada city.

Tesla alone is expected to employ 6,500 people when its factory is fully operational, and that's just a fraction of the 52,400 new jobs expected in the next five years in the Reno area, according to Mike Kazmierski, president and CEO of the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada.

Kazmierski told members of the Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce and others on Aug. 7 that EDAWN helped create more than 4,000 jobs last year, through recruitment of existing

companies, local start-ups and expansion of established businesses, and is waiting to announce the relocation of more than a dozen new companies bringing a total of 1,425 jobs.

EDAWN expects 4.5 percent job growth in the Reno area between now and 2019.

"There will be competition for workforce," said Kazmierski at the Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel lunch meeting.

"I think that's where we're going to feel it," said B. Gorman, chamber CEO. "My concern is I talk to businesses every day who are having trouble hiring people right now."

The audience of about 65 was concerned, too, but more seemed to welcome Reno's resurgence.

When Sandy Evans-Hall, Tahoe Prosperity Center board member, asked if people were worried about Reno's growth, a few hands went up. But when she asked who saw it as an opportunity for their business, about half the people in the room raised a hand.

Kazmierski, too, said there would be plenty of upside for the Tahoe region. He said air service to the Reno Tahoe International Airport would improve, a boon for the visitor traffic Lake Tahoe relies on.

The new companies locating in Northern Nevada will do more business at the lake, as will many of their employees, who are largely expected to be younger.

"Millennials like to be outdoors," said Kazmierski.

And there will be more quality job opportunities for locals.

"Your kids and grandkids can stay here and you can keep your family close," he said.

EDAWN, along with a coalition of area cities and counties, as

well as state agencies and infrastructure entities such as NV Energy, the Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, have been working on a study of the expected impact of the growth.

Kazmierski said the EPIC report, to be released in September, would provide the data needed for the area to prepare.

"We've got to get ahead of the no-growthers before they close the door," said Kazmierski, referring to interests, including some on the Reno City Council and elsewhere, who are opposed to growth.

Kazmierski was asked if water was a limiting factor.

"Water is absolutely no problem for the Reno-Sparks area," he said. "We don't brag about it because of the drought here in California."

Kazmierski said there is enough water available in the Truckee Meadows to double the population.

"If we got serious about conservation, we could probably triple the population," he said.

But at least one attendee was skeptical.

"I think he's misguided on the water," Garry Bowen, of Tahoe Future Forum, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Bowen said he helped commission a study on area sustainability by the American Institute of Architects in 2005. The report included an assessment of water quantity and quality.

"I think he's being misled," said Bowen. "It just doesn't compute."

Runnels must remove abandoned cars at Y

By Kathryn Reed

A judge on Thursday put the brakes on abandoned cars being able to be stored in South Lake Tahoe.

John Runnels has 30 days to get rid of the vehicles sitting on his property on the northwest corner of the Y.

Previous city managers, city attorneys and councils have wanted to rid the vehicles. Until this week, none had succeeded.



John Runnels has a court order to remove the abandoned vehicles on his property in 30 days.
Photo/Ernie Claudio

In October 2006 Runnels went before a city zoning administrator for a nuisance hearing after police officers cited him. Runnels prevailed.

Runnels was issued a dealers' license in 1979 by the DMV, the

same year the city's Planning Commission approved a special use permit allowing him to store unregistered vehicles at the Emerald Bay Road business. Two of the conditions of the city permit were that Runnels had to maintain valid certification from the state to sell and repair vehicles. They both expired. That gave the city the power to revoke the special use permit.

Talks have been going on for about a year, with both sides ultimately putting the matter in a judge's hands. On Aug. 6 after a four-hour hearing, El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Daniel Proud ruled in the city's favor, determining the vehicles are abandoned, which violates city ordinances.

"We did a title search on each vehicle. We had to prove they were abandoned," City Manager Nancy Kerry told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We did a history search on each vehicle. All of this history and research determined they are abandoned and not for sale."

Runnels could still operate a store on site. He was not available for comment. He owns the corner lot as well as the parcel behind it.

An athlete's guide to superfood seeds

By Emily Payne, Outside

Yeah, superfoods come in and out of favor like fashion trends. A few years ago, we were all about acai, as this *Hopes&Fears* article points out, and now we're really into kale and quinoa.

It makes sense, when you consider the word "superfood" is

simply a marketing term with no scientific definition behind it.

Trendy or not, however, certain foods will always be nutrient powerhouses. As such, those foods can help promote recovery after a tough workout, and scavenge cell-damaging free radicals. That's where these five seeds come in.

Read the whole story

Author-artist – illustrating Tahoe history

By Andrea Bartunek, Moonshine Ink

Ever wondered about the Angora Fire or the Hermit of Emerald Bay? Tahoe History Comix, sold in four-packs and individually, present historic topics in short, easy-to-read formats with detailed illustrations.

The coolest part of these comics is they were written by Kim Wyatt and illustrated by Jared Manninen of the Lake Tahoe Society for Storytelling & Enlightenment, which keeps history alive through storytelling. Released by Meyer's Bona Fide Books (of which Wyatt is a publisher), the first round of comics includes five volumes, with three more in progress.

I read the first four volumes: "State Route 28", "The Angora Fire", "Trailblazing Women of Lake Tahoe", and "Wild Men of Lake Tahoe". "State Route 28" tours the 28-mile biking route from Tahoe City to Spooner Lake, while "The Angora Fire" details the tragic event and teaches wildfire prevention and fighting methods.

El Dorado Savings' profits hold steady

Placerville-based El Dorado Savings Bank reported second quarter profits of \$2,803,419, which represented a \$21,312 increase compared to the same period in 2014.

Earnings for the first six months of this year totaled \$5,795,045 compared to \$5,901,573 in 2014.

"The continued strong profits reflect the stable performance of the loan and investment portfolios," CEO George L. Cook Jr. said in a statement.

El Dorado ended the quarter with \$1.93 billion in total assets and savings deposits of \$1.72 billion.

"The bank remains in excellent financial condition with strong capital, high liquidity and excellent asset quality. We ended the first half of 2015 with only one foreclosed property on the books," said Cook.

The bank operates 35 branches, 31 in California and four in Northern Nevada.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report