

# Bill would allow USPS to ship alcohol

By Bay City News Service

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough, introduced a bill last week to lift a ban on shipping alcohol through the U.S. Postal Service.

Speier's office said the bill would end a Prohibition-era ban.

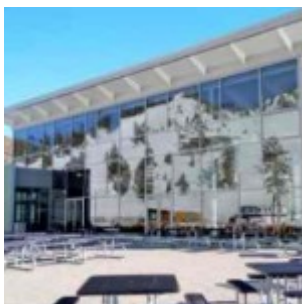
"Prohibition is history, and this ban should be too," Speier said in a statement. "It's ridiculous that we're allowing UPS, FedEx and other companies to ship spirits, wine and beer to consumers, while banning the U.S. Postal Service from doing the exact same thing."

Speier's office said the ban puts the USPS at a disadvantage competitively.

**Read the whole story**

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## Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe is increasing its minimum wage to \$11 an hour. The change represents a 33 percent increase over the \$8.25 an hour mandated minimum wage in Nevada.

• Clem Shute, who serves on the Governing Board of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, received a lifetime

achievement award from the Environmental Section of the California Bar Association.

- The League to Save Lake Tahoe is putting on a Truckee River and beach cleanup on Aug. 25 from 4:30-7:30pm. Meet at the Tahoe City Transit Center.

- Shari Chase and Jennie Fairchild of Chase International made the Wall Street Journal's list of top agents and sales teams in the U.S.

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## Caesars turns around loss in second quarter

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Caesars Entertainment, the massive casino company whose Strip properties include Caesars Palace, the Flamingo and the Paris, reported its second quarter earnings this week.

**Revenue:** \$1.14 billion, up 17.4 percent from the second quarter of 2014 – but those numbers don't include revenue from Caesars Entertainment Operating Co., the company's division that went into bankruptcy in January. Including the bankrupt division, revenue was \$2.3 billion for the quarter, up 8 percent from last year.

**Earnings:** \$15 million, compared to a loss of \$91 million during the same time last year. Neither of those numbers includes the bankrupt division, which controls Caesars Palace, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Harveys and others.

**Read the whole story**

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# Old Alta Mira site being given a new life



This area of South Lake Tahoe is slated to be a small gathering area without motorized access. Photo/Kathryn Reed

**By Kathryn Reed**

Lakeview Lookout – the working name of the other bookend of Lakeview Commons – is being designed to be a community gathering spot with a lake view, but on a much smaller scale.

The Alta Mira building came down in September 2014, opening up a view of the lake in South Lake Tahoe that hadn't been seen in years.

The California Tahoe Conservancy, owner of the 0.55-acre site,

is working on a plan to turn the parcel into something useable. To start with the state agency is removing the pavement and installing vehicle barriers to allow for better pedestrian and bicycle use.

Lakeview Lookout, like the Commons, is part of the greater 56-acre project. Beautification from this parcel to El Dorado Beach would complete the Lakeview Commons project. No money is in the bank for the Alta Mira site or the acreage going to the Commons, though plans have been drawn for both. (Lakeview Commons cost more than \$6 million.) The remaining acreage in the bigger project is across the street and includes Campground by the Lake.

South Lake Tahoe City Council members on Aug. 4 agreed to form a committee to talk with El Dorado County officials about the 56-acre site's future.

The Conservancy staff has solidified its plans based on public input and the creative forces at Design Workshop. The board will be briefed on the idea at the September board meeting, with the desire to see where members want to put this project on the priority list.

"Together with Lakeview Commons what excites us about this is that it really is a community space away from the tourist core," Patrick Wright, CTC executive director, told *Lake Tahoe News*. "It is a place for primarily residents to have their space and enjoy the lake. For that reason it is likely to be a priority for us."

There is only so much that could be done with the site because of how small it is and the fact it borders Highway 50.

Stephanie Grisby with Design Workshop told *Lake Tahoe News*, "We are trying to expand it out into the trees a little bit so it has a small cantilever. Because of the location right on the highway trying to get some sound mitigation is a key design goal. There will be a little bit of berming without

blocking views of Lake Tahoe.”

The Conservancy is working on coming up with cash for the project that is estimated to cost more than \$2 million, which includes going through the environmental process.

Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Fund are two possible money sources. CTC staff will present the project to the service club today. Cathy DiCamillo, chair of the Soroptimist committee working with the Conservancy, did not return a phone call. The club has \$250,000 to spend on a major project. A vote by the nonprofit is expected Aug. 12, however some in the club wonder how the capital improvement project has anything to do with Soroptimists’ mission of helping women and girls.

Amy Berry, who is executive director of the Tahoe Fund, is also a member of this Soroptimist group.

Wright said the remaining funds from Proposition 12 and other sources could help pay for the work. The state water bond, though, is not an option.

As for who would be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the site, Wright said it’s too soon to answer – instead he wants to develop the area first. However, he said it’s probable the CTC would engage South Lake Tahoe in a conversation about entering into a contract for the city to maintain the property like it does at Lakeview Commons.

Funding will dictate when anything of substance is done at this area.

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# Opinion: Iraq vet unnerved when raided by cops

By Alex Horton, Washington Post

*Alex Horton is a member of the Defense Council at the Truman National Security Project. He served as an infantryman in Iraq with the Army's 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.*

I got home from the bar and fell into bed soon after Saturday night bled into Sunday morning. I didn't wake up until three police officers barged into my apartment, barking their presence at my door. They sped down the hallway to my bedroom, their service pistols drawn and leveled at me.

It was just past 9am, and I was still under the covers. The only visible target was my head.

In the shouting and commotion, I felt an instant familiarity. I'd been here before. This was a raid.

I had done this a few dozen times myself, 6,000 miles away from my Alexandria, Va., apartment. As an Army infantryman in Iraq, I'd always been on the trigger side of the weapon. Now that I was on the barrel side, I recalled basic training's most important firearm rule: Aim only at something you intend to kill.

I had conducted the same kind of raid on suspected bombmakers and high-value insurgents. But the Fairfax County officers in my apartment were aiming their weapons at a target whose rap sheet consisted only of parking tickets and an overdue library book.

**Read the whole story**

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# Cattle grazing illegally in Tahoe basin



This photo, taken Aug. 4, shows cattle grazing illegally in the Lake Tahoe Basin, specifically the Big Meadow area. Grazing was discontinued more than 10 years ago in Meiss Country where Big Meadow is located. The South Shore resident who took the photo and wants to remain anonymous said, "This situation has occurred numerous times since the ban of cattle in the area and responsible agencies have been negligent in preventing this resource damage to the watershed." Twenty-seven head of cattle were counted. The U.S. Forest Service controls the land. It was too late to obtain a comment from the feds.

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# Weekly bike rides starting in S. Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition this week is starting weekly Wednesday Night Rides in South Lake Tahoe.

Rides will be generally on paved paths and low traffic roads. The first ride is at 6pm Aug.5 and will continue through Sept. 30.

There will be at least one regroup stop to get everyone back together. Riders of all levels and ages (under 18 with parent), and with all types of bikes, are welcome. Helmets are required for all riders.

If it is raining at the start of the ride, the ride will be cancelled.

The ride route will vary week to week, but will generally be easy rides of 10-15 miles.

The meeting place for the August rides will be Grand Central Pizza in the Kings Trading Post Center at 2229 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe. The Aug. 5 ride will be a ride to Baldwin Beach and back.

The meeting place for the September rides will be posted on the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition website.

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# EDC father-son arrested on drug charges

An El Dorado County father and son are accused of running a marijuana operation on the West Slope.

The two were arrested Friday, but have since posted bail.

Members of the West El Dorado Narcotics Enforcement Team searched two properties in the 4500 block of Ingot Lane in the Garden Valley area near Coloma on July 23. They said they found 14 pounds of dried marijuana and 170 marijuana plants. A rifle was also confiscated.

Gregory Gilman, 55, and Dalton Gilman, 23, face charges of suspicion of cultivating and selling marijuana.

*– Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# In Calif., even firefighters conserve water

By Tamara Audi, Wall Street Journal

LOS ANGELES – Wildfires scorching California this summer have already cost one life, 24 homes and millions of dollars. They are also consuming another precious resource: water.

An entrenched drought, now in its fifth year, has dulled huge swaths of the Golden State, helping spur 21 blazes statewide. It is also creating new challenges to firefighters, who must

try to conserve water while dousing flames.

State water and fire officials stressed there is no danger of running out of water, but said they are being more careful to account for the impact of the drought.

**Read the whole story**

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## Missing dirt bike rider found deceased

The missing Bay Area teacher has been found dead next to his motorcycle on a rugged trail in El Dorado County.



Edward  
Cavanaugh

The sheriff's department received a call Aug. 4 at 11:20am from a member of the family's search crew who located a motorcycle matching the description of Edward Cavanaugh's and a deceased person nearby. The location was off the established OHV trail system in rugged brush filled terrain west of Slate Mountain.

His family issued this statement, "Our family would like to thank every single individual who has worked so hard to bring Ed home. We are overwhelmed with the kindness, generosity and

support that (have) been shown by all in finding Ed. It truly is a testament to Ed's extraordinary spirit and beautiful soul. Ed has touched so many lives in countless ways. We hope all who love Ed find comfort in knowing that his bright spirit is with us all during this heartbreaking time."

He had been missing since July 17.

An autopsy is pending.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*