

DUI checkpoint in Douglas County on July 4

Nevada Highway Patrol will be setting up a DUI checkpoint in Douglas County at Lake Tahoe during the Fourth of July holiday.

The exact location on Highway 50 has not been disclosed.

This event is being funded by a Joining Forces grant from the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety.

In addition to the checkpoint, additional officers will be patrolling the area roadways throughout the weekend to further protect pedestrians and other motorists from impaired drivers.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



• The official ground breaking ceremony for Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care's new home will be July 16 at 3pm at 1551 Al Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

• "Tahoe: A Visual History" will feature 175 painters, photographers, architects, weavers and sculptors at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno from Aug. 15-Jan. 10. For more info, call 775.329.3333.

• Brad Gustafson hit a hole in one on the second hole at Bijou Golf Course in South Lake Tahoe.

- Vacation rentals will be on the July 21 South Lake Tahoe City Council agenda.

- Tahoe Environmental Research Center, which operates four research buoys with NASA-JPL, recently replaced two of them. These buoys collect data that help check the accuracy of satellite information, provide instantaneous weather data, and even measure the dust and nutrients that fall out of the air and onto the lake.

Californians starting to reduce water use

By Fenit Nirappil, AP

California's drought-stricken cities set a record for water conservation, reducing usage 29 percent in May, according to data released by a state agency Wednesday.

Regulators hope the savings will last through summer as California communities are under order to cut water use by 25 percent compared to 2013 levels. Gov. Jerry Brown announced his mandatory conservation order in April.

Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the State Water Resources Control Board enforcing Brown's order, said the results show it's possible to meet steep conservation targets.

"It's gratifying that far more communities are stepping up, and we want to see this much more through the summer," Marcus said. "It ends up putting off the need for much harsher rationing, which has greater impacts on people and the economy."

California is in a four-year drought that has devastated some rural communities, prompted some farmers to leave fields unplanted or tap expensive water supplies and dented fish populations. Many cities have avoided the brunt of the dry spell because of backup supplies and preparation, but the governor wanted conservation efforts ramped up with no clear end to the drought in sight.

May's water savings were the best showing since the state started tracking conservation last summer. The report followed several months of tepid conservation, 13.5 percent in April and 4 percent in March.

Conservation may have been skewed by rain in parts of the state in May, which reduces the need to water lawns.

The data is self-reported by more than 400 California water departments and includes residential and business consumption. All regions of the state showed improvement.

Sacramento and its surrounding communities were the state's top performer, cutting water use by nearly 40 percent.

The southern coast, where more than half of the state's population lives in cities including Los Angeles and San Diego, conserved 25 percent in May after months of lackluster savings. Temperatures in the region were about 5 degrees cooler compared to May 2013 with an additional half inch of rain, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data.

Regulators have been encouraging Californians to let their lawns go dry this summer as the easiest way to save large amounts of water and maintain local supplies if the drought continues.

The water board has assigned each community a mandatory conservation target between 4 and 36 percent, depending on how much water residents used last summer, that will be tracked

between June and February. Cities that don't meet these targets face fines or state-imposed restrictions on water use.

Some have complained these targets are unfair because it doesn't take into account water savings made before the drought or how secure local supplies are. The city of Riverside is suing the water board over conservation, saying it has ample groundwater supplies.

Double amputee to swim from Incline to TC

A double amputee is set to swim 12 miles across Lake Tahoe towing his 11-year-old son in a kayak for charitable cause on July 12 beginning at 9:30am.

Harry Boucher, 44, of Turlock will be swimming to raise awareness for the need to have more accessibility for children and adults with disabilities via nonprofit organizations like the Society for Disabilities, which helps establish Miracle League baseball fields for disabled children and playgrounds, including adaptive swings for disabled children.

He will start at Sand Harbor and plans to finish at Skylandia Beach near Tahoe City.

Boucher contracted meningitis at 18 months old, resulting in the amputation of his feet.

Boats entering Tahoe need inspecting

With sunny skies and warm temperatures predicted for the 4th of July weekend, boaters are urged to clean, drain and dry their boats before arriving at the roadside inspection stations in Tahoe to avoid delays and decontamination fees.

All stations close at 5:30pm.

Boat inspectors are required to inspect every boat for the presence of aquatic invasive species prior to launching in Lake Tahoe. Since May, inspectors have intercepted and decontaminated nine boats containing invasive species bound for the waters of Lake Tahoe. Without natural predators, these invasive species pose serious threats to the ecology, recreation and local economies of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Quick tips for boaters visiting the Lake Tahoe Basin this summer:

- Go online for inspection locations, hours, fees and information about boat inspections and invasive species. Weekdays and mornings are typically less congested at roadside boat inspection stations. Friday evenings, Saturdays and holidays are typically the busiest.
- Returning Tahoe boats with a Lake Tahoe wire seal still affixed to the boat and trailer may head directly to a launch ramp to purchase a 2015 Tahoe Only inspection sticker.
- Prior to arriving, make sure your vessel is clean, drained and dry. Check that all systems are working,

batteries are charged, the boat has gas in the tank and that you have the key to start the engine. Bring any specialized flushing adapters to the inspection station, as inspectors only have the most common types and sizes. If flushing your engine at home prior to inspection, make sure to drain all residual water. If inspectors find water they are required to decontaminate.

- Annual watercraft inspection fees range from \$35 for personal watercraft and vessels under 17 feet up to \$121 for vessels over 39 feet. The annual Tahoe Only sticker fee is \$30. An additional fee of \$35 is charged for any boat requiring decontamination, with an additional \$10 fee for ballast systems. Fees are payable via Visa or MasterCard (no cash or check).
- Paddlers of kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft are encouraged to stop by an inspection station for a free inspection and urged to visit TahoeKeepers.org to learn how to self-inspect boats and gear and receive a free Tahoe Keepers sticker.

Time to tune up property's BMPs

Publisher's note: *This article first appeared in Tahoe In Depth and reprinted with permission.*

By Shay Navarro

Any homeowner knows that winter can take a toll on your property. The snow melts and leaves behind all manner of debris and damage.

But at Lake Tahoe, spring cleanup can mean more than just

raking up. Tahoe properties need to have erosion-control landscaping measures known as best management practices, and spring often means tuning up your BMPs to make sure your property isn't sending polluted runoff to the lake.

Springtime also brings the added responsibility of maintaining defensible space around your property.

BMP maintenance

BMPs are important in that they minimize the impacts of development on water quality. TRPA requires properties to capture and infiltrate water from impervious surfaces, such as roofs and driveways, and to stabilize sources of dirt and debris with vegetation and mulch. Properties in compliance receive a BMP Certificate of Completion. Just like a car cannot be driven without changing the oil, BMPs need routine maintenance in order to continue functioning properly. Routine maintenance preserves the lifespan of BMPs and minimizes the potential for polluted storm water runoff to reach Lake Tahoe.

Single-family properties

BMP maintenance activities for a single family residential property typically include:

- Maintaining a 5-foot, noncombustible perimeter around each structure by removing dead vegetation, dried leaves, and pine needles. Keep only irrigated herbaceous vegetation in this area.
- Sweeping sediment off driveways, walkways, and patios.
- Removing pine needles, debris, and sediment from slotted channel drains, swales and gutters. Replace or repair any damaged conveyance structures.
- Removing pine needles and debris from gravel infiltration systems and rock lined swales. Remove gravel clogged with fine sediments, sift clean and replace. Repair or replace borders,

filter fabric, and sediment traps as needed.

- Replacing dead vegetation in infiltration swales and basins and adding 1-2 inches of mulch to insulate plant roots and conserve moisture.
- Maintaining a minimum 3-inch layer of rock armor under roof drip lines and decks.
- Stabilizing any exposed bare soil and stabilize slopes with visible signs of erosion using rock mulch and/or vegetation.
- Repairing any failing retaining structures and removing accumulated sediment to achieve 6 inches of space from the top of the structure.
- Maintaining parking barriers to block vehicle access to all unpaved areas.

Commercial, apartments

Commercial and large multi-family residential properties complete online inspection and maintenance logs to show that BMPs have been maintained. BMP maintenance on these properties is critical in preventing polluted storm water runoff from reaching Lake Tahoe and helps local jurisdictions meet total maximum daily load requirements. Once maintenance is verified, TRPA will re-issue the BMP certificate of completion.

For more information on BMP maintenance requirements and to view step-by-step instructional maintenance videos, go online.

Shay Navarro is the storm water program manager at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

'On Golden Pond' captures family strife, love



Pam Taylor and Dave Anderson star in "On Golden Pond" at the Boathouse Theatre. Photos/Kathryn Reed

By Kim Wyatt

CAMP RICHARDSON – The Boathouse Theatre is one sweet place to see live theater. It's charming and intimate, like the production of "On Golden Pond" that debuted July 2 at the Tallac Historic Site. Playing to an appreciative and almost full house, this iconic play drove home all that is wonderful (and awful) about family.

The 2015 Valhalla Art, Music & Theatre Festival kicked off its 35th season with the play penned by Ernest Thompson in 1979 that won a Tony and then three Oscars for the film adaptation featuring Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn.

Ethel and Norman Thayer have spent 43 summers together at a

home on Golden Pond. In a testament to her youthful appearance or good genes, Pam Taylor's ebullient Ethel hardly looks 69 years old as she swats back bugs that threaten their idyll. Norman, skillfully played by Dave Anderson, is a good decade older than his wife, and he acts like it. Even so, his curmudgeonly outlook made for the best and longest laughs of the night.



Pam Taylor and Stephanie Grigsby are adept at capturing mother-daughter angst.

When their daughter Chelsea visits with her fiancé Billy Ray and his son Billy Ray Jr., the father-daughter relationship rankles – Chelsea is hanging on to some major childhood baggage, and is still seeking approval from her distant father.

The men in the play shine in the first act, likely because they have the best lines. The women get their chance in the second act, revealing their characters' interior lives. The familiar tenor of the fight between Ethel and her daughter made me squirm. And when Chelsea, played by Stephanie Grigsby, opens up to her withholding father, I winced at his continued rejection. They are each wanting to connect, but their inability to be vulnerable makes it impossible. A vulnerability, that when it comes full circle at the end,

gives us hope for the family, and maybe all families.

The appearance of Billy Jr. added a bright note to this production. Thomas Rayo did a crackerjack job as a 13-year-old boy who adds spice – and purpose – to an old man's life, which leads to the healing of his fractured family. Ryan Adams and Jody Paslov rounded out the cast nicely as Chelsea's current and former suitors.

Co-produced by the Dakota Organization, a theatrical organization based in Minden, the tender drama was directed by Ethan Niven, who is also on staff as the festival assistant.

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Notes:

- "On Golden Pond" will run: July 3 and 5, July 9-12 and July 16-18.
- Find ticket information online.

Kim Wyatt is the owner of the independent press Bona Fide Books and the co-founder of Tahoe WordWave, to debut Oct. 9 at the Tallac Historic Site.

Opinion: Ski towns wrestle with marijuana

By Allen Best, Mountain Town News

You can buy a Budweiser in Vail. You can smoke a bud, as in the flowering portion of a cannabis plant, in the privacy of your own home. But buy a bud, shatter, wax or chocolate chip

cookies infused with THC, the psychoactive agent in cannabis?

Not yet. And perhaps not ever. Unlike some other ski towns in Colorado, which have chosen to treat marijuana similar to alcohol in important ways, Vail has been deeply ambivalent about allowing sales. Almost everybody would agree that attitudes toward cannabis use have rapidly changed, and many people would agree that it's for the better that the economy of cannabis has been brought above ground.

But what is the effect on the "brand" of Vail? That's been the question in recent weeks as elected officials mull whether to allow sales. It's a question that Whistler could someday also face, given the trend toward legalization in North America. After all, "super, natural British Columbia," as the tourism slogan goes, is located between Washington state and Alaska, and both have now legalized sales for recreational use.

Colorado voters, with a 55 percent plurality, legalized recreational use, "grow 's "great social experiment," as Gov. John Hickenlooper put it, has gone reasonably well since 55 percent of voters in November 2012 legalized recreational use, "grow" operations, and sales. Sales were authorized beginning in January 2014.

In Vail, the margin was even larger, 60 percent. And among that majority was Andy Daly, the silver-haired mayor of Vail. He's been in Colorado 46 years, working first as a ski patroller at Aspen before moving into management jobs. He's overseen several ski areas and for a time was president of Vail Resorts, the ski company.

Daly says he voted for legalization in the hope that bringing the marijuana economy above ground would reduce the power of drug cartels in Mexico and the United States. It's probably too soon to know whether this has succeeded, in part because Colorado is responsible for such a relatively small part of the North American market for cannabis.

But wanting to legalize cannabis sales is not the same as wanting stores on your main street or, in the case of Vail, the Bridge Street. Colorado's law allows the towns, cities and counties to allow sales –or not. Far more than half so far have chosen not to allow sales. Use is allowed in all jurisdictions, but nowhere in public, such as along streets or parks.

As mayor, Daly is inclined to keep Vail's door closed on sales. He says he is persuaded by the community survey, which is distributed not only to residents but also second-home owners and others with a deep interest in Vail affairs. In that survey, 85 percent of respondents indicated they had no interest in allowing cannabis stores in Vail.

Daly says his thinking is guided partly by business owners in Vail but also those in Breckenridge and Aspen. Legalized sales, he says, "Would be extraordinarily disadvantageous to the brand we've tried to develop in Vail and protect and extend."

The testimony of Mexican visitors has particularly influenced Daly. Wealthy Mexicans have been drawn to Vail for decades, and the town is currently in the process of establishing a sister-city relationship with San Miguel Allende, a resort along the Atlantic coast. As Brazil has prospered, Portuguese has also become a commonly heard language in Vail, too. Vail's attraction to rich Latin Americans is the sense of security. "They feel it's a very safe environment for their children, and at least anecdotally, they are not in favor of marijuana for sale in downtown Vail," says Daly. "They don't want their kids to see it. They think it would be detrimental to the overall experience. They feel the same as (our) business owners, that it would be inconsistent with our brand."

Like Whistler, Vail is not entirely prim and proper. Alcohol has often flown freely, sometimes during holidays producing exuberance bordering mayhem. Marijuana use has been ample,

too. In 1985, when a quad lift with a sliding canopy to protect riders from snow and wind debuted, it was formally called the Vista Bahn. With a knowing smirk, locals called it the Rasta Bahn, a reference to the marijuana culture of reggae music then popular.

That's not to say that you can't buy marijuana now when visiting Vail. It's harder than ordering a pizza, but it's still easy enough. Three stores that sell cannabis products can be found in a strip that locals call the Green Mile. It's located in Eagle-Vail, the unincorporated community between Vail and Beaver Creek. From Vail Village, it's a 5- or 10-minute ride. Some hotels dispatch vans to take their guests to the cannabis stores.

The one I visited during mid-June is called Roots Rx, and it's located in a suburban office building with an engineering company upstairs and a packaging business next door. It will dispatch a limo to customers who call in, and a "budtender" named Sara told me that the limo has stayed plenty busy since the store opened last October.

Small by standards of those in Denver, it still has the full range of goods: joints, bud for smoking in bowls, plus the concentrates: shatter, pie crust and wax.

It also has edibles: various candies and cookies infused with THC, the psychoactive agent in cannabis. To seemingly everybody's surprise in Colorado, edibles have been responsible for 40 percent of product sold since recreational sales began in January 2014 and the concentrates another 19 percent.

Edibles have had unintended consequences, most famously the catatonic night that *New York Times* columnist Maureen Dowd spent on a high-priced hotel bed in downtown Denver soon after sales began in 2014. She wrote about her frightened over-indulgence some months later. Unlike smoking, which quickly

produces a sensation, eating or drinking THC-infused products has a more delayed impact. Feeling nothing at first, some have gobbled several portions.

“An overdose on marijuana is called a nap,” one “budtender” assured me with a smile when I visited a Denver-area store selling recreational marijuana last winter. But the evidence suggests a more unwieldy set of reactions. One college student jumped from a hotel balcony in Denver after wolfing down too many edibles. There have been reports, shy on data and strong on anecdote, of increased visits to emergency rooms.

Colorado regulators in February responded with new rules that mandate identification of THC contents in portions. A chocolate bar may have 100 milligrams of THC, but the bar is broken into chunks of no more than 10 milligrams per serving. In most of the stores I have visited across Colorado since December, customers are advised to start low and go slow. In other words, wait an hour or two to see what 5 grams will do.

A substantial number of marijuana buyers have been tourists. One study conducted a year ago, six months after sales began, found that visitors were responsible for 50 percent of purchases in metro Denver and up to 90 percent in ski towns.

Aspen and Telluride both allowed sales as soon as the state’s rope was dropped in January 2014. They twitch liberal to Vail’s innate conservatism. Jack Nicholson and Goldie Hawn hung out in Aspen for decades, and Oprah Winfrey and Tom Cruise have places in Telluride. But Vail? It’s better to know Wall Street, than Hollywood, to pick out the rich and famous that visit Vail or its nearby companion of Beaver Creek.

Both Aspen and Telluride treat cannabis much the same as alcohol, at least in determining location of outlets. Like bars, they must be a respectful distance from schools, for example. Both towns also chose to let the market regulate the number of stores. There is no quota. The market itself has

capped, for the time being, four stores in Telluride and five in Aspen.

Steamboat Springs was more slow to open the door – and only partially so. Elected officials there carefully created zoning that precludes cannabis stores near the base of the ski area or in the historic downtown area. The stores – capped at three – are all out on the edge of town, with the likes of auto-body shops and plumbing offices.

Other ski communities are split. Most of the world thinks of Crested Butte as one place. It's really two places. The original mining town tilts liberal, but a newer municipality at the base of the ski area called Mt. Crested Butte trends conservative. One allows cannabis sales, but the other one? Forget about it. You see that same dynamic in many other joined-at-the hip ski towns, including Aspen and Snowmass, Telluride and Mountain Village, Winter Park and Fraser.

But here's something more perverse. Those places more inclined toward conservatism also are distrustful of the free market. Big-government Aspen lets the free-market govern how many cannabis stores operate, but trust-the-free-market Steamboat believes in central planning.

Authentic Colorado

Breckenridge offers arguably Colorado's most interesting story. The town calls itself "genuine Colorado," a reference to its roots in the gold rush of 1859. One relic of that mining era is architecture along the town's Main Street with the Queen Anne's touches of the Victorian era.

It's a cute place for families to stroll, stopping at stores that sell T-shirts, candy and clothing. One store is called the Joy of Sox.

And when recreational sales began in 2014, visitors could also shop for Sour Diesel and other strains of indica and sativa at a store located on the second floor of an old yellow-sided house on Main Street. That's where the Breckenridge Cannabis Club was located, and on opening day it had lines of customers up the narrow stairs and out the door and onto the sidewalk along Main Street.

Breckenridge had a history of being ahead of the Colorado curve in legalization. The town was quick to allow sales of marijuana for medicinal uses after it was authorized by state voters. They could even be on Main Street, if only in second-floor locations. In 2009, town voters went one step further, with 73 percent of voters allowing possession of up to one ounce. It was the first municipality in Colorado to do so. When 55 percent of Colorado voters opted for legalization, Breckenridge was there with 70 percent.

But as time went on, Breckenridge's embrace became less broad. Many people saw medical marijuana a sham. It was supposed to be for people in genuine need, and the Colorado law spells out the conditions: cancer, glaucoma, AIDs, and others. But there was also a provision for "severe pain," and medical dispensaries in Denver and elsewhere found physicians, on call, who could diagnose that severe pain – wink-wink – in short order. No need to get an appointment weeks in advance. Rather, the script was minutes away. "I've never seen so many 21-year-olds with severe neck pain," the local sheriff said at the time.

The Breckenridge Town Council decided that recreational sales needed to be treated differently than medical sales. The Breckenridge Cannabis Club could still operate out of its second-floor location on Main Street if it sold medical marijuana, but recreational sales could only be done in certain zones. One of those zones is a service district called Airport Road. Several cannabis stores had located there. Locals dubbed it Airpot Road.

The Breckenridge Cannabis Club fought to stay on Main Street and sell recreational pot. But 70 percent of town residents said no. Risk was the central axis for the debate. "Big risk, little upside," warned three former mayors with a combined tenure of 16 years. "When marijuana goes mainstream, added the former majors, our Main Street may then be ready. But not now, not yet."

In March, a survey commissioned by the Breckenridge Tourism Office probed how visitors saw the community in light of the availability of marijuana. Overall, 75 percent said it was neither positive nor negative, but more (12 percent) were very positive than (percent very negative). In the overnight visitors not from Colorado, i.e. the destination guests, reviews were even stronger, 20 percent finding marijuana as positive compared to 7 percent who saw it as a negative.

Breckenridge also collects a local sales tax on marijuana sales, but it's only 1.5 percent of the total sales, compared to 10 percent for grocery and liquor, 22.5 percent for bars and restaurants, and 31 percent for short-term lodging.

The experience in Vail

In Vail, legalization has been a curiosity to most people. One person I know, a long-time consumer of marijuana, has started buying his stash from the Green Mile stores. Why wouldn't you, he said, instead of buying from somebody you barely know in the shadows?

Make no mistake: it's still illegal to consume marijuana in public. People can buy edibles, and no one will know. But smoking a joint or a bowl? Colorado law strictly bans smoking in public places. That includes the ski area and Bridge Street. Indoor smoking is also banned in hotel rooms. Those people smoking – whether tobacco or cannabis – are commonly fined \$250 to \$300, for the cost of removing the scent.

A hotel valet named Geno, who I used to play basketball with

in Vail, reports that he doesn't get asked about where to buy cannabis all that often. Everybody has an iPhone, and the information is at his or her fingertips, he says. "If somebody does ask, I explain that it's not as legal as some people think," he said. It's illegal to drive while under the influence.

As the Vail council started discussion options in early June, Greg Moffet was one of the more outspoken members. He tends toward florid Hawaiian shirts and sandals, even at council meetings. But he didn't argue for legalizing sales. However, he did declare that Vail needs to respond to a new reality. "We have people coming to town anyway, with their shopping bags from Eagle-Vail or Denver," he said. "I am most concerned about creating an environmental where a percentage of our guests – and we need to make peace with this fact – that a percentage of our guests want to consume this product. I think it is incumbent on us to not put our heads in the sand as to what is going on here. The status quo is broken."

Moffet says that Vail needs to provide a place for people to consume cannabis, no matter where they've purchased it. Daly observed that Moffet was talking about marijuana clubs. Only one such place seems to exist in Colorado, at the gambling town of Black Hawk.

Later, in an interview, Moffet said that in his ideal model, cannabis would be consumed where it is sold. "But that model does not exist today," he added.

The Vail council will take up the marijuana issue again in July, and Moffet says he doesn't think the town's ready to accept sales. But he also argues that Vail should not close the door forever. "It's moving too fast," he says.

You hear that comment frequently in Colorado. While 23 states and the District of Columbia now allow medical use of cannabis, Colorado was the first to implement regulations for

sale of purely recreational use. Washington state voters approved legalization at the same time. But without a legal framework or sales of medical marijuana, Washington has been slower to move forward. Colorado is the petri dish for the experiment.

Now, Oregon, Alaska and Washington D.C. have legalized recreational use – although the latter has a modified model, one that emphasizes personal grow operations.

Where will this all end up? *High Times* magazine sponsored the Cannabis Cup on April 18-20 in Denver. The event drew some 50,000 to 75,000 people. Bill Kreutzmann, the drummer for the Grateful Dead, was there to promote his book, *Deal: My Three Decades of Drumming, Dreams and Drugs*. Some of the 300-plus vendors were hawking pipes, LED lights for more energy efficient grow operations and T-shirts: Denver: Center of the Cannaverse, said one.

There was a sense of triumph as thousands of people drew on cannabis cigars, called blunts, and a collective puff at 4:20pm April 20 produced a haze of smoke. Before, in conference rooms, speakers had discussed everything from how to cook organically and healthily with cannabis (“cut out the refined sugar!”) to political implications. Ballot issues are being readied in Arizona, California, Nevada, Maine and Massachusetts. Legislators in some other states are working up proposed legalization laws.

“If California legalizes it, it’s over,” said Russ Belville, who does a daily two-hour show on 420 Radio, which calls itself the NPR of THC.

What’s all over? The national policy of prohibition. The U.S. government took the first steps to ban marijuana in 1937, just a few years after legalizing alcohol, and then stepped up the ban in 1970 by making it a Schedule 2 controlled substance under federal laws. Belville showed a chart showing that more

than two million people have been imprisoned under the laws. "Mostly black and Latino men," he said.

Keith Stroup, an attorney who in 1970 founded NORML, the advocacy organization, said that in 1969, polls showed just 12 percent of Americans favored legalization. Now, polls show between 53 and 58 percent for legalization. They can see the failure of prohibition, he said, but two-thirds of Americans also have an unfavorable opinion of marijuana users. "They see us as slackers, people without ambition who spend our days on the sofa," he said. "We have passed the tipping point, but marijuana smokers must be responsible in how they pursue it and how they present it."

And after the United States? Other countries took their cues from the U.S. in making marijuana illegal, speakers said, and the reverse will be true, too. Might that include Canada?

Colorado's key lesson is that legalization has more complexities than you might think. The popularity of edibles surprised everybody. Police are still trying to get a handle on how to judge the influence of somebody who has ingested THC. Everywhere there are questions about the impact of greater availability on the formation of adolescent minds.

Five and 10 years from now, there will probably still be questions. Keep in mind that the prohibition of alcohol in the United States ended in 1933. If prohibition was considered a massive failure, Americans are still coming grappling with the effects of legalization 77 years.

With cannabis, much the same is likely to be true, too. But Colorado is already one token over the line.

Authorities cracking down on pets left in cars

El Dorado County Animal Services is advising pet owners to not leave dogs, cats or other pets unattended in vehicles during hot weather.

California law allows animal services officers to take swift action to help an animal that may be in danger, including those left inside vehicles on a hot day. People could face fines up to \$500 and/or up to six months in jail, including possible felony charges if the pet is severely harmed or dies.

“Last week alone, 13 calls came into Animal Services about pets in hot vehicles in El Dorado County,” said Henry Brzezinski, chief of Animal Services, said in a statement. “Anyone who sees an animal in distress in a hot car should write down the vehicle license plate number and state of the plate, the make, model and color of the vehicle, and the type of animal, and call us immediately. Our officers will respond and attempt to locate the owner. If the animal is in immediate danger, our officers will remove the animal for its safety. If necessary, the animal will be transported to a veterinary hospital.”

When it's 80 degrees or higher outside, temperatures inside a vehicle can reach 120 degrees or more in 10 to 20 minutes, even with the windows opened slightly. Heat stress or stroke, irreparable brain damage and death can follow shortly thereafter.

To report a pet in distress, call 530.621.5795 on the West Slope or 530.573.7925 in South Lake Tahoe.

Landscaping trainings tailored to Tahoe

The Tahoe Resource Conservation District in partnership with the South Tahoe Public Utility District is hosting free Tahoe friendly landscaping trainings for the month of July.

Whether you're a landscaper, landscape manager or do-it-yourself gardener these trainings will present the knowledge needed to stay ahead of the drought.

Classes are:

- Growing Your Business with Smart Irrigation Technology – July 8, 5:30-7:30pm

This training will be at the South Tahoe PUD offices and will discuss new irrigation technology that can save you or your client's money, time and water.

- Irrigation Controllers: Timing is Everything – July 29, 5:30-7:30pm

This training will be at the Tahoe City PUD offices, focus will be on the changing field of irrigation technology. You will learn how to update your irrigation knowledge and practices with the use of high efficiency irrigation tools.

- Understanding & Implementing Micro-irrigation – Aug. 5, 5:30-7:30pm

This training will be at the North Tahoe Events Center in Kings Beach. Understand your irrigation controllers and program option features to support healthy landscapes during watering restrictions.

RSVP for these events is requested by contacting Jennifer Cressy at jcressy@tahoercd.org or 530.543.1501, ext.107